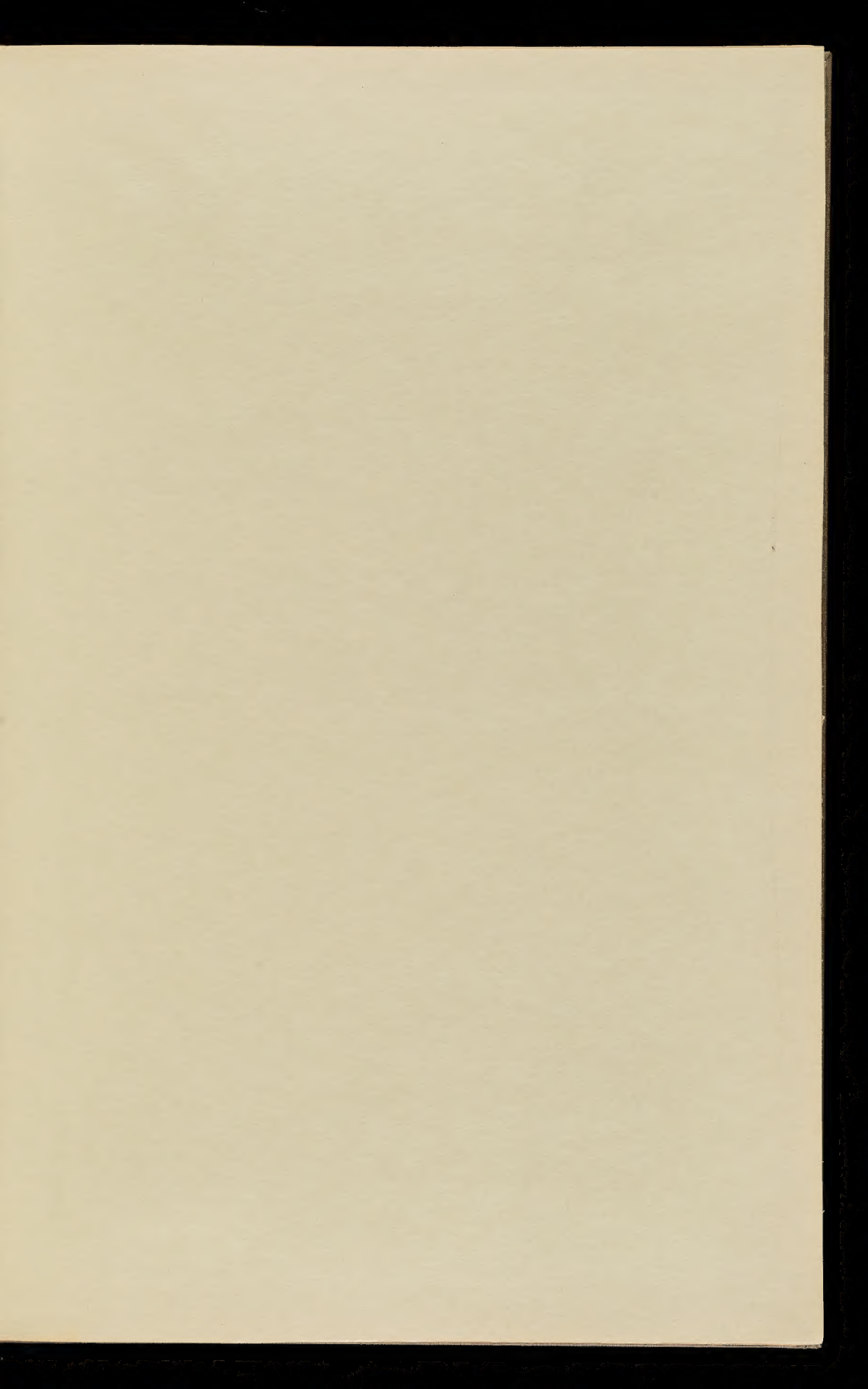


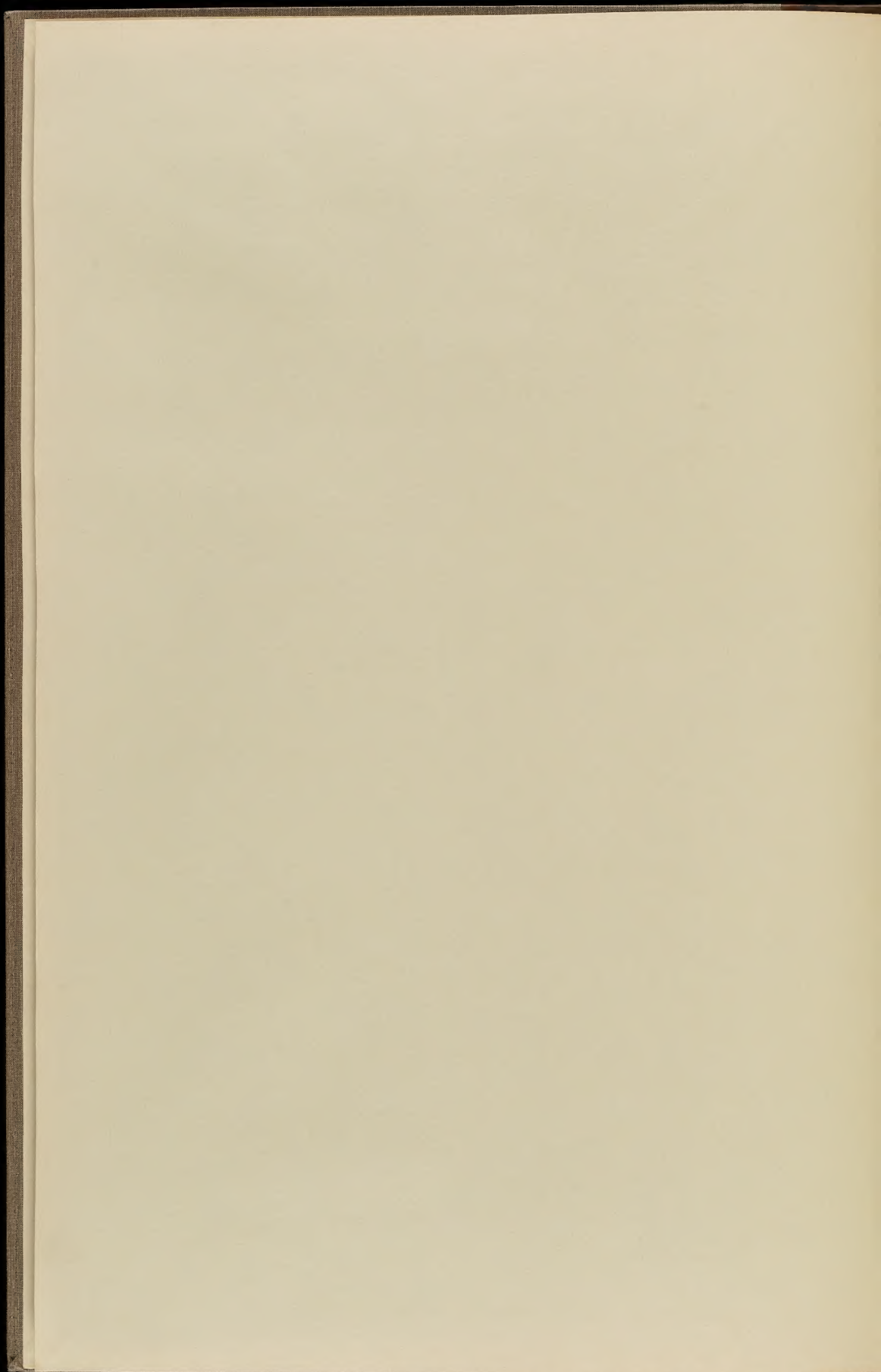
PLATÆA.
OLYMPIA & ELIS

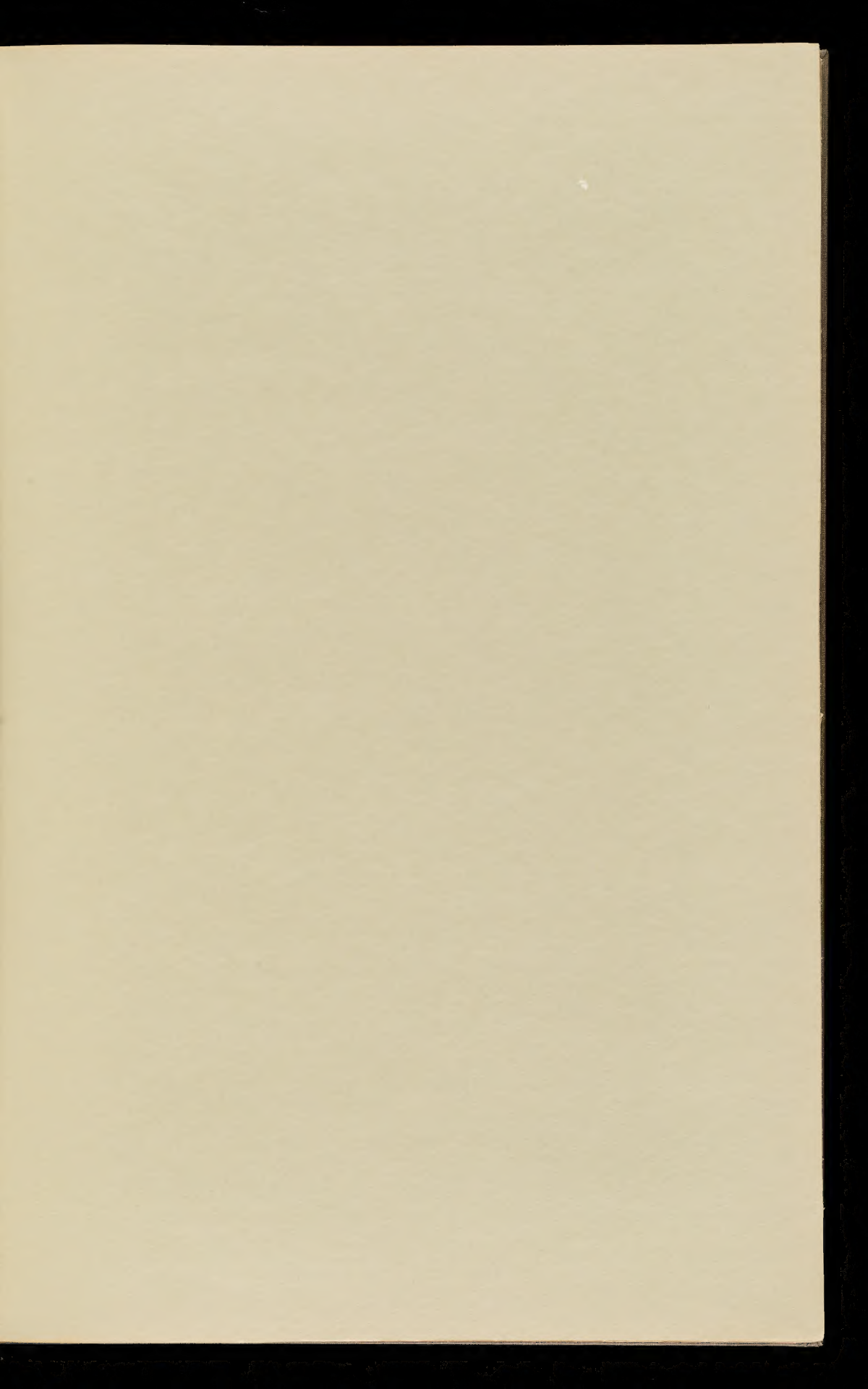
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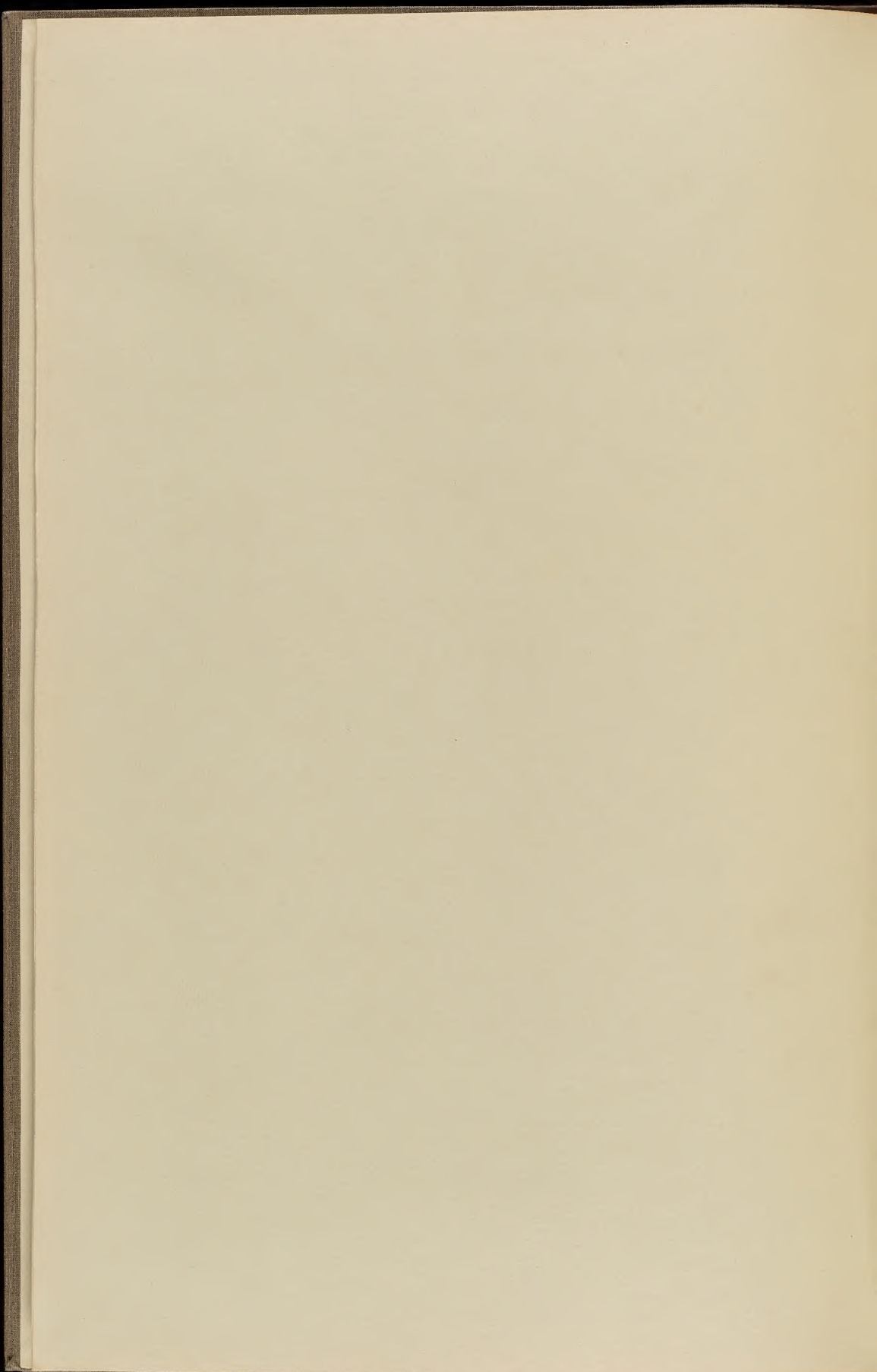
JOHN SPENCER STANHOPE. F.R.S.













Engraved by Thomas Agnew & Sons

CIRTO CASTRO. THE ANCIENT ELSUTHESA.

From a drawing by the Rev. John G. Thompson, 1845.

PLATÆA,
OLYMPIA AND ELIS.

BY JOHN SPENCER STANHOPE, F.R.S.

AND CORRESPONDENT OF THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF FRANCE.

LONDON:

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[actually 1817]



TO THE
ACADEMY OF INSCRIPTIONS AND BELLES LETTRES
OF

THE IMPERIAL INSTITUTE OF FRANCE,

THIS WORK,

UNDERTAKEN AT THEIR DESIRE,

IS

RESPECTFULLY DEDICATED

BY THEIR VERY OBEDIENT AND HUMBLE SERVANT,

JOHN SPENCER STANHOPE.









THE PLAIN OF PLATÆA.

The plain of Platæa is bounded to the south by mount Elatia; to the north by a low range of hills by which it is separated from the plain of Thebes. It is closed in by mountains to the west, but lies open towards the east. It is watered by two rivers, one of which flows immediately in front of the ruins of a considerable city. Through mount Elatia, near the village of Calivia, there is a narrow pass, through which lies the road to Athens. In the middle of this pass rises a rocky mountain, on the summit of which stand the remains of a fortress, by which the pass is completely commanded.

The question between Mons. Gail and me is, whether the plain thus described is or is not the plain of Platæa, and the most satisfactory way of determining it appears to be, by comparing the appearance of the plain above-mentioned with the accounts of that plain transmitted to us by the Ancients. Strabo says respecting the position of Platæa:—"Platæa, which the poet has put in the singular number, lies at the foot of Cithæron, between that mountain and Thebes, near the road leading to Athens and Megara, on the confines of Attica and the Megarid, for Eleuthera "is close by, which some say belongs to Platæa, and others to Boeotia. I have before said that the Asopus flows near "Platæa." Platæa then was situated immediately under Cithæron, and between that mountain and Thebes. It was near the road leading from Thebes to Athens and Megara, and also near the spot where the territories of these two states meet near Eleuthera. It was also near the Asopus. It appears to me that we have already sufficient grounds upon which to decide the question. About the position of Athens, there can be no dispute, and as little about that of Thebes, which undoubtedly occupies the site of the ancient Cadmeion, and still retains the name of Thiba. About Cithæron there is equally little doubt, as all historians and geographers agree that it was the ancient name of the range of mountains now called Elatia. Here then are three points fixed,—Athens, Cithæron, and Thebes. Between Thebes and Cithæron, and not far from the road leading from Thebes to Athens and Megara, the city of Platæa was placed, and accordingly, at the foot of Elatia, on the Theban side, we find the ruins of a city, the extent of which alone is sufficient to authorise us to conclude that they could only belong to so large a city as Platæa. The Asopus also flows through the Platæid, for such undoubtedly is the river that runs through the plain to the east; I was induced to make this inference from the direction of its waters, but the fact was ascertained beyond all question by Col. Leake, who traced its whole course, from its source to the place where it discharges itself into the ocean.

Let us now see how far the appearance of this plain coincides with the account given of the plain of Platæa by Herodotus. According to that author, the Athenians entered the plain by the pass of the Three Heads, or the Head of the Onk, and near it they took up their first position. Their second was near the fountain of Gargaphia. They were afterwards dislodged from thence by the operations of the enemy, who filled up the well. "They troubled and "filled up the fountain of Gargaphia, from which the whole Grecian army was supplied with water. The Lacedæmonians "alone were stationed at the fountain; from the other Greeks the fountain was more or less remote, according to their "respective positions; but the Asopus was near." They determined to take a position in the island of Oeroe. "It is "distant 10 stadia from the Asopus, and from the fountain of Gargaphia, near which they were then encamped, and is "in front of the city of Platæa." The army accordingly put itself in motion. The Athenians passed through the plain, and the Lacedæmonians over the skirts of mount Cithæron. When the latter arrived at the Molœis, which



was 10 stadia distant from the position at the fountain, and the same from the temple of Juno, which was in front of the city, they were attacked by the Persians. The principal points to ascertain then are the pass, the fountain of Gargaphia, the Moloeis near which was the temple of Ceres; the city, and the Heraion or temple of Juno. The less important ones are the tomb of Androcrates, the position of Hysia, and the sacred wells.

I have already observed, that I am far from pretending to give any of these points as established with certainty, but am rather desirous of leaving them to the decision of those more capable of forming a correct judgment of them than myself, and whose opinions would have greater weight with the world; yet, as the more nearly I can shew this plain to answer to the description of Herodotus, who has given the fullest account of it of any ancient author with whom I am acquainted, the more satisfactorily I shall prove it to be the plain of Platea, it may not be wholly uninteresting to my readers to know the impression that was made upon me by the actual appearance of the country. Every thing seemed to me to coincide with the details of the historian far beyond my expectations, though it is possible I may in some instances have been led away by my enthusiasm.

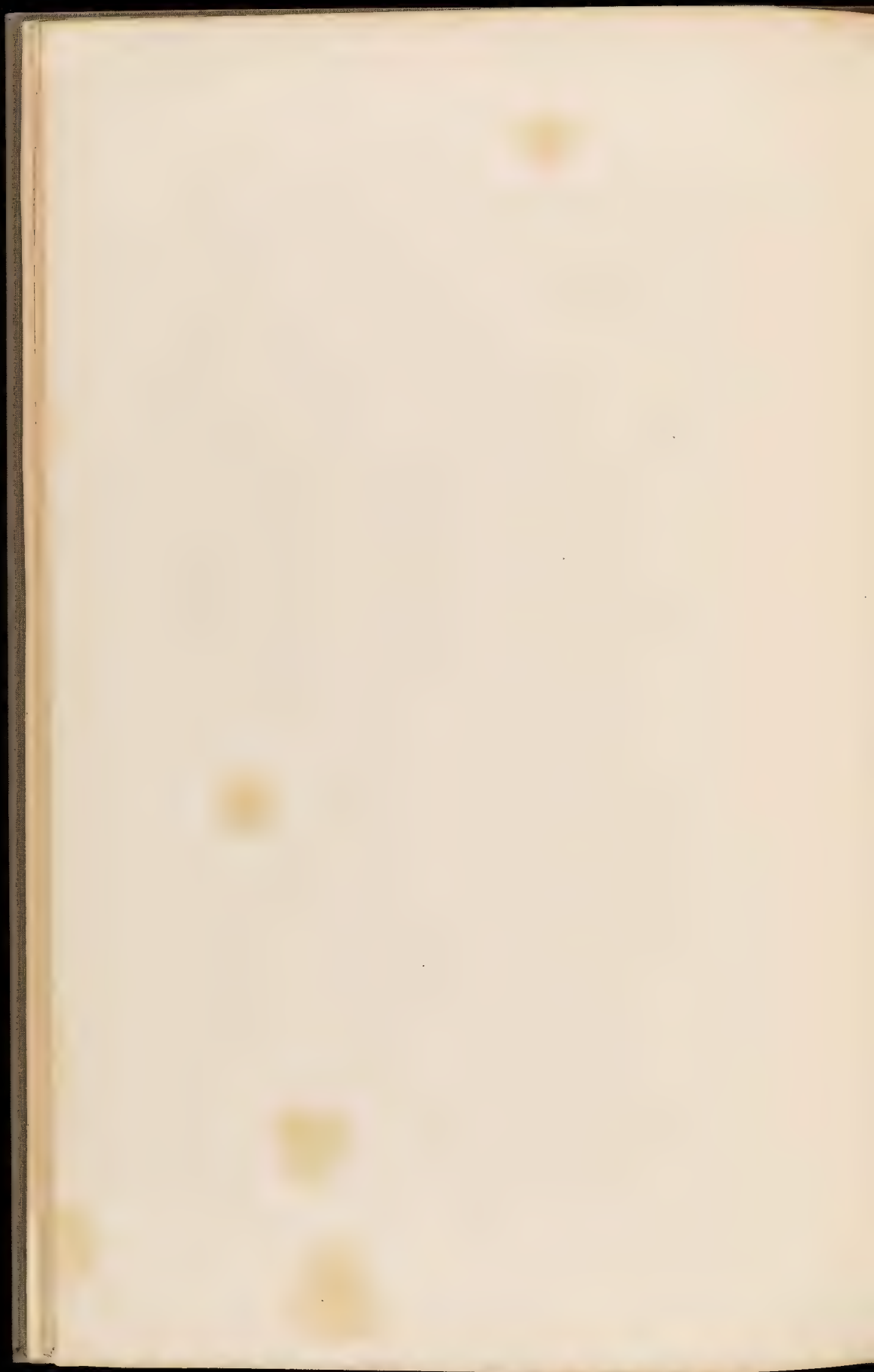
I began my observations from the ruins of the city, as forming the most striking feature in the plain. Near them, to the east, I observed the remains of a Greek church, and as these buildings are frequently constructed on the site of ancient temples, I conjectured that this might occupy that of the Heraion, or temple of Juno. Knowing that the Moloeis was 10 stadia distant from Platea, or rather from the Heraion, which was in front of that city, I proceeded along the foot of Elatia in an easterly direction, and after having completed that distance as nearly as I could calculate, I arrived at a fountain before which was an ancient slab of marble. From this source flowed a stream into a river, which I will afterwards endeavour to prove to be the Oëroë. Above the fountain, on a height to the east, are the ruins of a Greek church, amidst which some fragments of ancient architecture clearly proved that it had been formed out of the remains of a temple. This might probably be that of the Eleusinian Ceres. Above was a cave which might be the Sphragidion, but it is so small that I scarcely venture to give it that denomination. It corresponds with the position given to it in the Atlas to Anacharsis, but does not entirely answer to the description of Plutarch, who says that the cave of the nymphs Sphragitides was on one of the summits of mount Cithæron. Pausanias however states that the summit was occupied by an altar, and that the cave of the nymphs Sphragitides was 15 stadia below. Near this I observed a square slab of marble, which might probably have belonged to the tomb of Androcrates. From its distance from the city, and from its vicinity to the ruins of the temple, I concluded that this stream was the Moloeis. This point being established, I was certain that by advancing 10 stadia further, I ought to find the fountain of Gargaphia. I accordingly continued my researches, and having exceeded that distance, came to the village of Calivia. There I found some wells, near which were some stones, which from their form and size have a just claim to antiquity. These were, perhaps, the sacred wells, and if that be admitted, Calivia then occupies the site of Hysia. We had not discovered the fountain of Gargaphia, but I felt satisfied that it could not be far from the village, and accordingly, upon his second visit, Mr. Allason found it lower down in the plain. The only point that now remains to be determined is the island of Oëroë, and I certainly acknowledge not only that I did not find it, but that I believe it is not to be found in the plain here delineated. Most travellers have agreed in the existence of this island. Lord Broughton mentions that he saw the place where the two streams united, but he does not say that he traced them from the point of separation. Even the inhabitants of the plain seem to be so fully persuaded of there being an island, that in answer to my inquiries respecting it, they invariably pointed to a spot in front of Platea where I searched for it in vain. Whether this opinion of theirs took its rise from tradition, or what is more probable, from the inquiries of travellers, I cannot pretend to decide; but of this I am convinced, that the island does not exist, and if this is admitted, a question arises whether the description of Herodotus of necessity implies that fact.

But before I enter into this inquiry, it will be necessary to make some observations on the two rivers which flow through the plain. From what I understood at Athens, the existence of two rivers had not been generally ascertained, and consequently the stream which runs in front of the city had been almost universally taken for the Asopus. We soon found, however, in the prosecution of our researches, that it could not be that river, as it takes a westerly instead of easterly direction, and falls into the Gulph of Lepanto. The Asopus takes its rise further to the east, and flows into the Gulph of the Negropont. I think it is a justifiable conjecture, that the first mentioned river, flowing in front of the city, is that which formed the island.



It is not without considerable hesitation that I venture to give a different construction to a Greek passage from that which appears to have been generally received, but it seems to me that the name of Oëroë has been improperly applied to the island, whereas it belongs to the river by which the island is formed. The words of the historian are as follows; "It is a sort of island in the continent, formed in the following manner: the river separating above, out of Cithæron, flows below into the plain, keeping its branches at about the distance of three stadia: it afterwards unites; the name of it is Oëroë:" "ἦσος δὲ οὕτω ὡς εἴη ἐν ἡπείρῳ σχιζόμενος ὁ ποταμὸς ἀναδύνει τοῦ Κιθαίρωνος ῥέει κάτω ἐς τὸ πεδίον διέχων ἀπ' ἀλλήλων τὰ ῥέεθρα ὅσοντι τρεῖς στάδια καὶ ἅπαντα συμμίσσει ἐς ταῦτόν αὖν ὄνομα δέ αἱ Ὀερόη." The translators have probably supposed that the ποταμὸς designated the Asopus, which could not be the fact, as Herodotus himself states, that the island was 10 stadia from the Asopus, and consequently it could not be formed by that river. The ποταμὸς mentioned in this passage, therefore, is a distinct river from the Asopus, to which it appears to me the αἱ refers, though it seems to have been supposed to apply to ἦσος. The name of Oëroë, evidently derived from ῥέω and the circumstance of its being designated as the daughter of Asopus, would alone have induced me to believe that it was affixed to a river, and not an island; but a passage which almost immediately follows, seems decisive of the question: Ἀπικομένῳ δὲ ἐς τὸν χῆρον ταῦτον τὸν δὲ ἡ Λαλαίς Ὀερόη περιχέζονται ῥέοντα ἐκ τοῦ Κιθαίρωνος. The meaning of which passage appears to me, to be, "being come to the place round which the Asopian Oëroë, flowing "from the Cithæron, (divides itself) &c." This in the Latin translation, is rendered, "quinetiam quum ad eum locum "ubi Asopi filia Oëroë divortio aquarum e Citharone cingitur.", Beloe has given it thus: "It was also their intention, "when arrived at the spot where the Asopian Oëroë is formed by the junction of the waters flowing from Cithæron." Believing that Oëroë was an island, they have forced this passage, in order to give the interpretation which best suited their ideas. The ῥέοντα agreeing with Oëroë, proves, in my opinion, that it must be a river. Mons. Larcher escapes this difficulty, by applying the name of Oëroë in one passage to the island, and in the other to the river. But there is a passage in Pausanias which seems to put the matter out of all doubt. He says, "on the road which leads from "Platæa to Thebes, you find the river Perœe. They say Asopus had a daughter of this name." The Perœe and Oëroë are undoubtedly the same river; and since we are not made acquainted in history with the course of the Oëroë, we may naturally conclude, when we find only two principal streams in the plain, that that which is not the Asopus is the Oëroë.

But to return to the island. It will be unnecessary to quote again the passage by which it is described. My readers will have remarked the words, ἦσος δὲ οὕτω ὡς εἴη ἐν ἡπείρῳ. I do not quite understand what the historian means by "it is a sort of an island in the continent." Every island formed by rivers must come under this description. Surely then he would have hardly made an observation so unnecessary; it may be supposed that some other meaning is intended to be conveyed by this expression, if the word σχίζω can be supposed to allow of the rivers separating immediately from their sources instead of from the same bed. The stream which I have supposed to be the Moloëis, and another which takes also its source near it, on mount Cithæron, would appear to come the nearest to the description of Herodotus. Whether the same stream could be at once the Moloëis and that branch of the Oëroë that formed the island, might admit of some question. In that case, the Spartans, upon their halt at the Moloëis, could not have been far from the position they were to take up in the island, and yet their halting for Anompharetus, scarcely seems to admit of that interpretation. However, what comes strongly in support of the contrary opinion is, that the island and the Moloëis are both described as being 10 stadia from the position at the fountain, and they must necessarily have both been in the direction of the city. I shall leave it to my readers to solve these difficulties, and to determine whether they arise from a misinterpretation of the historian, or from any change in the course of the waters. My object is answered in refuting the position of Mons. Gaill, and in shewing, from a comparison of the actual state of the plain, that in almost every point it accords with the description of Herodotus. Perhaps, however, there is no circumstance which more strongly identifies the plain which I have delineated with that of Platæa, than the pass which the historian has mentioned. He says, the Persian cavalry, ascending from the plain, penetrated Cithæron by the pass, called by the people of the country the Three Heads, and by the Athenians the Head of the Oak. Now, the pass which leads to Gifto Castro answers, in many respects to this description. It is, indeed, one of the most remarkable and striking features of the country. I will not take it upon me to say, that there may not



be considerable ravines in other ranges of Cithæron, but it is the only spot in the chain which came under my observation as being at all entitled to the epithet of a pass; it occurs at the precise point where the description of Herodotus would lead us to expect it, and what, to my mind, puts the question beyond a doubt; the road that winds through this pass is to this day the only road leading from Thebes to Athens through Eleusis.

Not to insist upon such of those points as have been mentioned merely as conjectures, we have gained the pass and the Oëroë, in addition to our former proofs. We have established every important point except the island; and is the difficulty of finding a spot which answers to this single circumstance in the historian's narrative, sufficient to induce us to deny that plain to be the plain of Platæa, which in every other particular coincides with the accounts of the ancients with such surprising exactness? Surely not. The position of Thebes, Cithæron, the ruins of the city of Platæa, the Asopus, the Oëroë, the Pass, the remains of Eleuthera, and the concurring testimony of all travellers, establish it beyond contradiction.

I cannot take leave of the subject without making an observation respecting the fountain of Gargaphia, as it was this point Mons. Gaïl first attacked. In opposition to the meaning given to the word *νεκρον*, in every lexicon, Mons. Gaïl thought proper to say, that it signified a basin, and not a fountain; and then proceeded to maintain, that the spring to which I have attached the name of Gargaphia, is neither plentiful enough to supply the army with water, nor large enough to permit the cavalry to descend into it. I have already mentioned that I am far from insisting dogmatically, that the conjectures I have made are right in every instance, and I am not bound to maintain that the fountain is now in the exact state in which it was at the Persian invasion, or though there are now the remains of an ancient casing of stones, that it is the same which was there at the battle of Platæa. I am not aware that it is any where mentioned, that the cavalry descended into it, as Mons. Gaïl seems to imply; but even if they had, that would prove nothing with respect to its present appearance, as it was filled up by the Persian army. When I find a spring, corresponding exactly, in point of distance, with the account of the historian, I naturally conclude that it is the source from which the water flowed; but whether or not, it fell into a basin, and what the shape and size of that basin was, I cannot attempt to determine.



PLATEA.



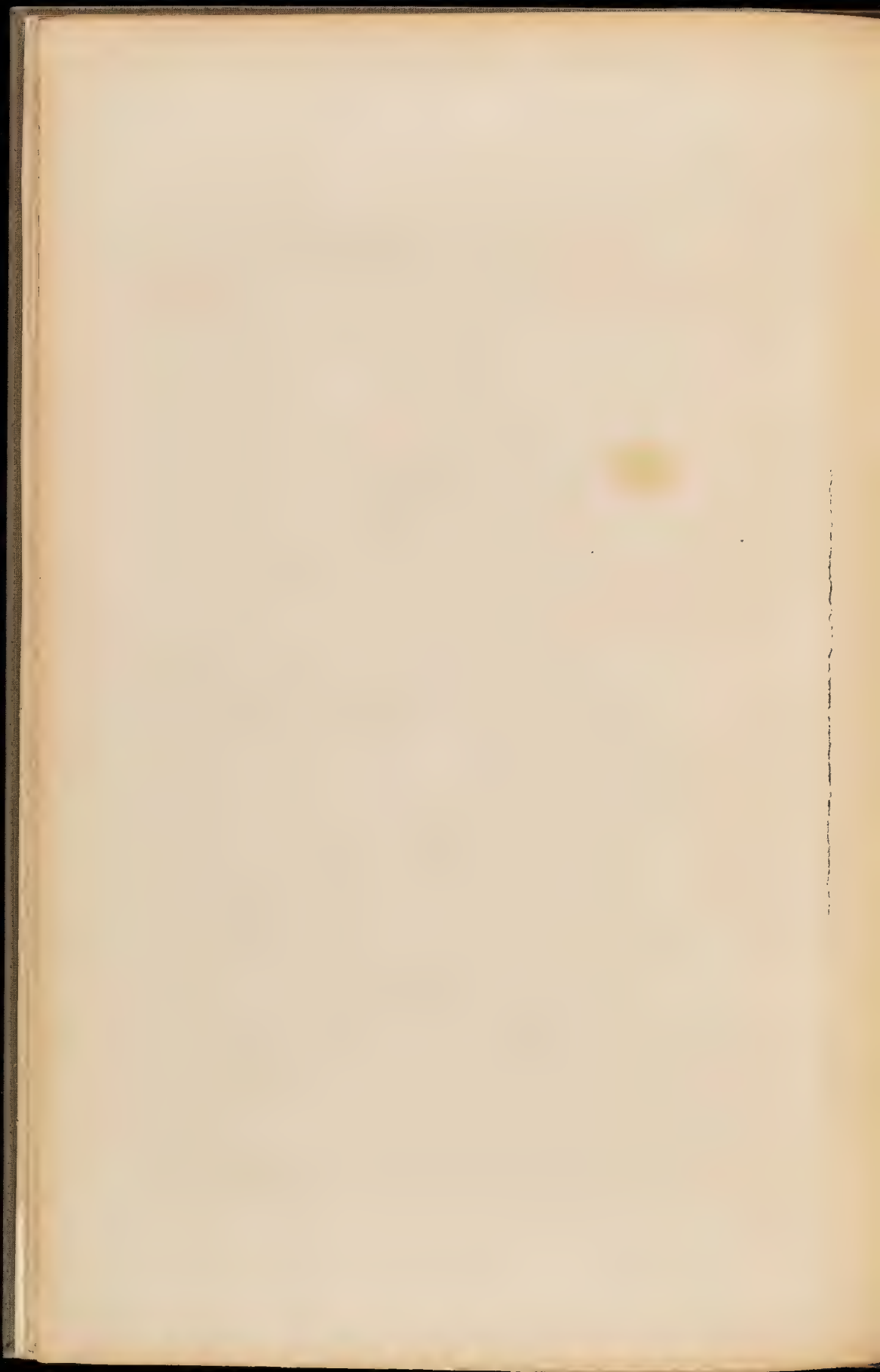
At the same scale of 1/2 inch to the foot, the Plan of the Acropolis and the Plan of the Temple and of the wall at 1/2 inch to the foot.



1/2 inch to the foot

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THE CITY OF PLATÆA.

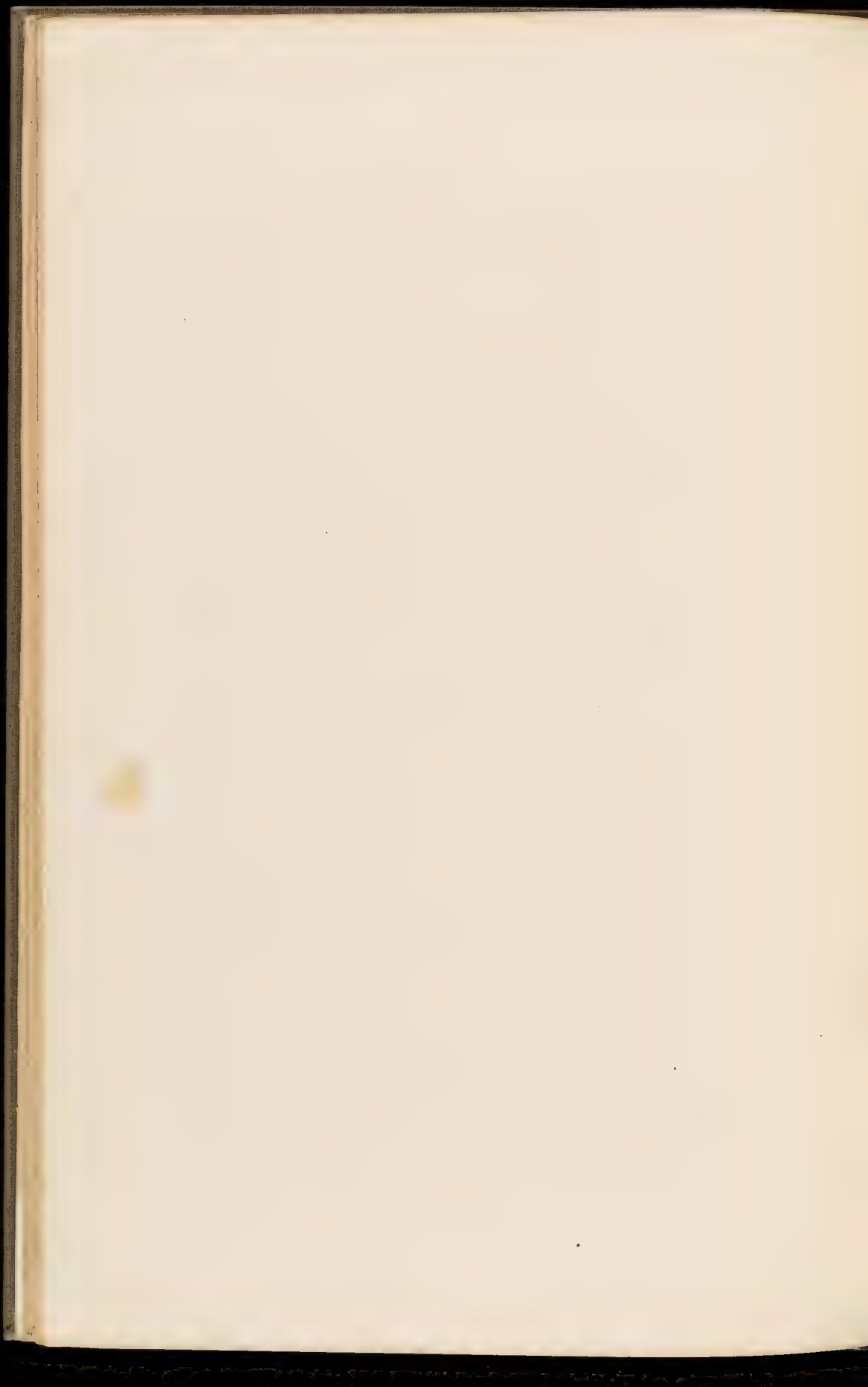
I have ventured to give a separate plan of the city of Platæa, because it appeared to me highly interesting, as well in an historical point of view, as on account of the actual state of the ruins. I should have subjoined a brief sketch of its history, had I not felt that it would have been presumptuous in me to suppose that I could add any thing to the information of my readers on the subject. It will therefore be merely necessary for me to remind them that this city was first destroyed by Xerxes, and a second time by the Thebans after the siege which it so heroically sustained against the Peloponnesians; that it was rebuilt after the peace of Antalcidas, and again destroyed by the Thebans three years before the battle of Leuctra, and finally was once more restored by Philip after the battle of Chæronea. The siege of which I have already spoken is undoubtedly the most striking feature in its history, and I may be permitted to hope that my readers will derive additional pleasure from the perusal of the interesting details given of it by Thucydides, with this plan of the city before their eyes. If the walls now remaining are not the ruins of those which sustained the siege, it is at least a reasonable conjecture that they were raised upon the same foundations. In this case, a question may arise whether the interior wall marked in the plan may not be that described by Thucydides as built in the shape of a half moon, and abutting at each end against the walls of the city. The plan of the city is sufficiently minute to render any more particular account of its actual state unnecessary, though the following general observations of Mr. Allason's on its architecture may not be uninteresting.

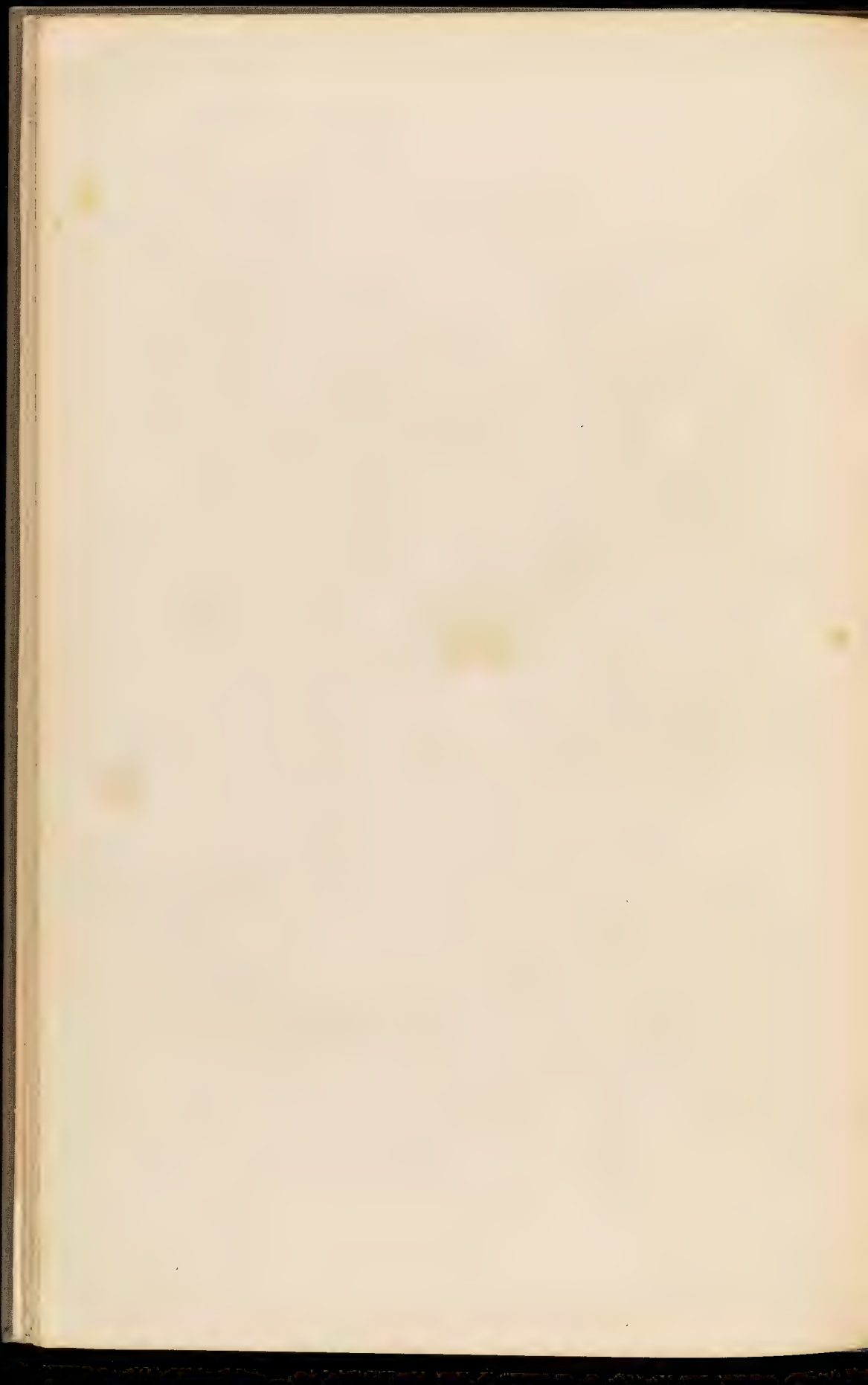
"The south and west sides of the city of Platæa are defended by deep and rocky ravines, and to the north the ground falls precipitously. The masonry of the walls is of the kind termed *incertum*. The walls of the Acropolis are more regular in their construction than those of the city. The general thickness is from seven to nine feet with towers placed at unequal distances, having staircases as shown in the plan. The Acropolis is to the north west, where the ground is the most inaccessible. The form of the walls is irregular, and towards the city protected by towers. Under the walls towards the west are several broken sarcophagi cut out of the rock."

ELEUTHERA, OENOË, PHYLE.

Gifto or Egypto-Castro, which I have given as the ancient Eleuthera, is magnificently situated on the summit of a steep and rocky mountain, from which it looks down upon and completely commands the pass of the Dryocéphala. The excellent state of preservation in which it still remains, many of its towers as well as great part of the walls retaining their original height, renders its appearance strikingly beautiful. We found it about one hour's distance from the entrance of the pass, ten minutes from a fountain on the Bœotian side, which may be that of Antiope, and on the side of Attica ten minutes from the plain in which stands Oenoë. I cannot attempt to give a minute description of the ruins of Gifto-Castro, as at the time I passed it, I had not sufficiently recovered my strength to be able to ascend the mountain upon which it stands. I must therefore refer to the plan and view taken of it by Mr. Allason, as well as his description of it, which is as follows. "The circuit of the walls is of considerable extent; their general thickness is about eight feet; they are of *incertum*-masonry, and exactly similar in their construction to those of Platæa; they are irregular in their form, of different heights, following the inequalities of the ground, and where accessible, defended by towers, buttresses, &c." For the reason already mentioned, I was unable to examine the neighbouring country or visit the fortress of Oenoë, which Mr. Allason thus describes. "Close to the mountain on the eastern side are the remains of a fortress on a slight rising ground, behind which flows a rivulet in a narrow rocky bed. The towers are four in number, they exceed three feet in thickness, having staircases of communication to the upper chambers. Within the fortress are the remains of a tower 60 feet by 30—it is undoubtedly of great antiquity, resembling in its appearance the walls of Tyrinth. We saw no ruins of habitations." He also mentions having perceived several detached towers occupying different heights on the mountain.

Mr. Allason likewise visited and took a plan of Phyle, which is situated near the village of Casha, and it has a claim to our attention as it is one of the forts which protected Attica on the side of Bœotia. It is described by Mr. Allason in the following words. "The small fortress of Phyle is built upon a rock accessible only from one side, where is the wall forming its principal feature, on its right flanked by a circular tower, and on its left by a square one. The walls vary in thickness from 6 to 9 feet, and are constructed in the usual way."

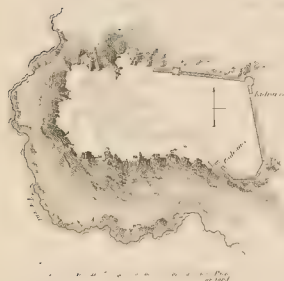




GIFTO-CASTRO, anciently ELEUTHERA.



PHYLE.



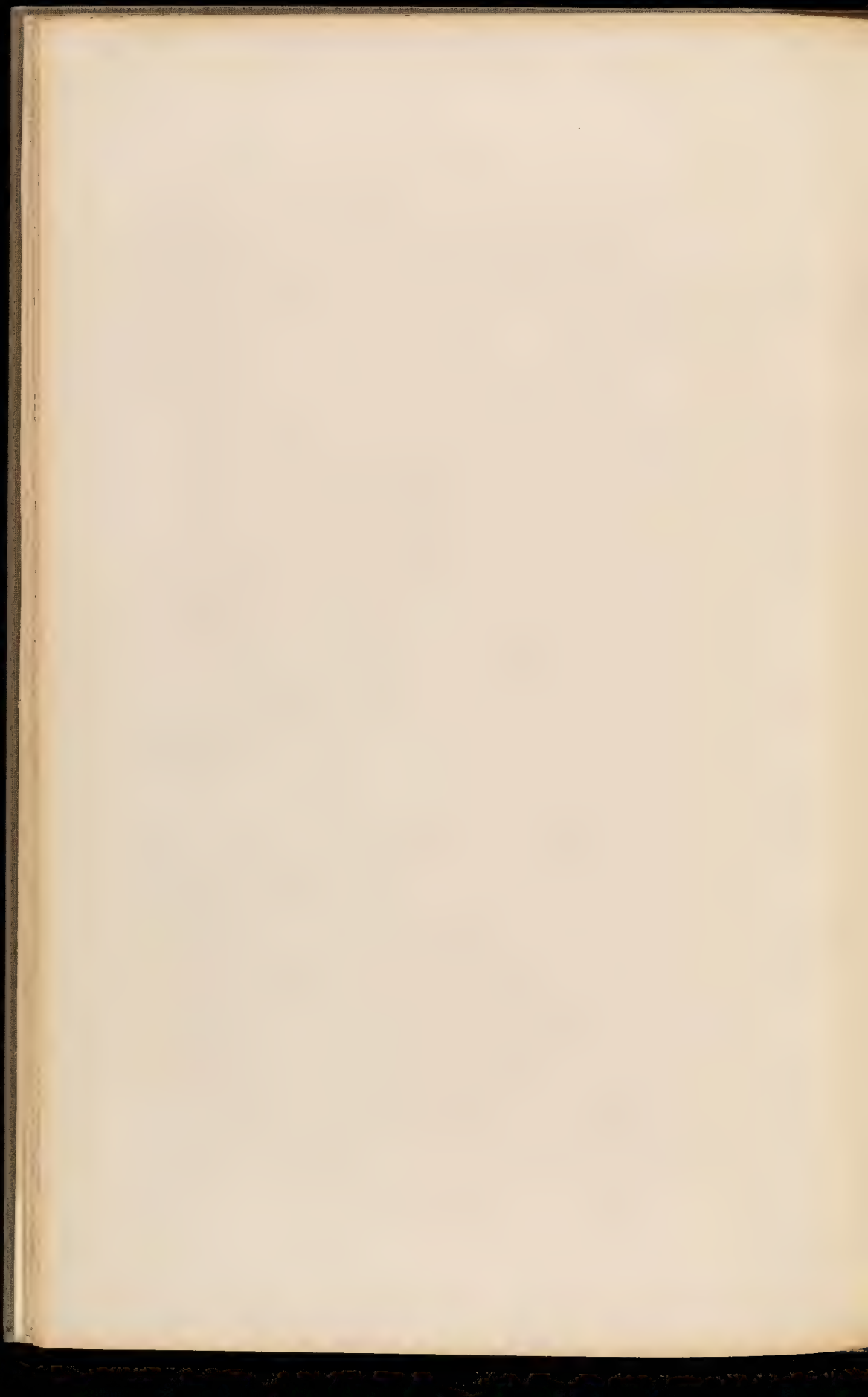
OENOE.

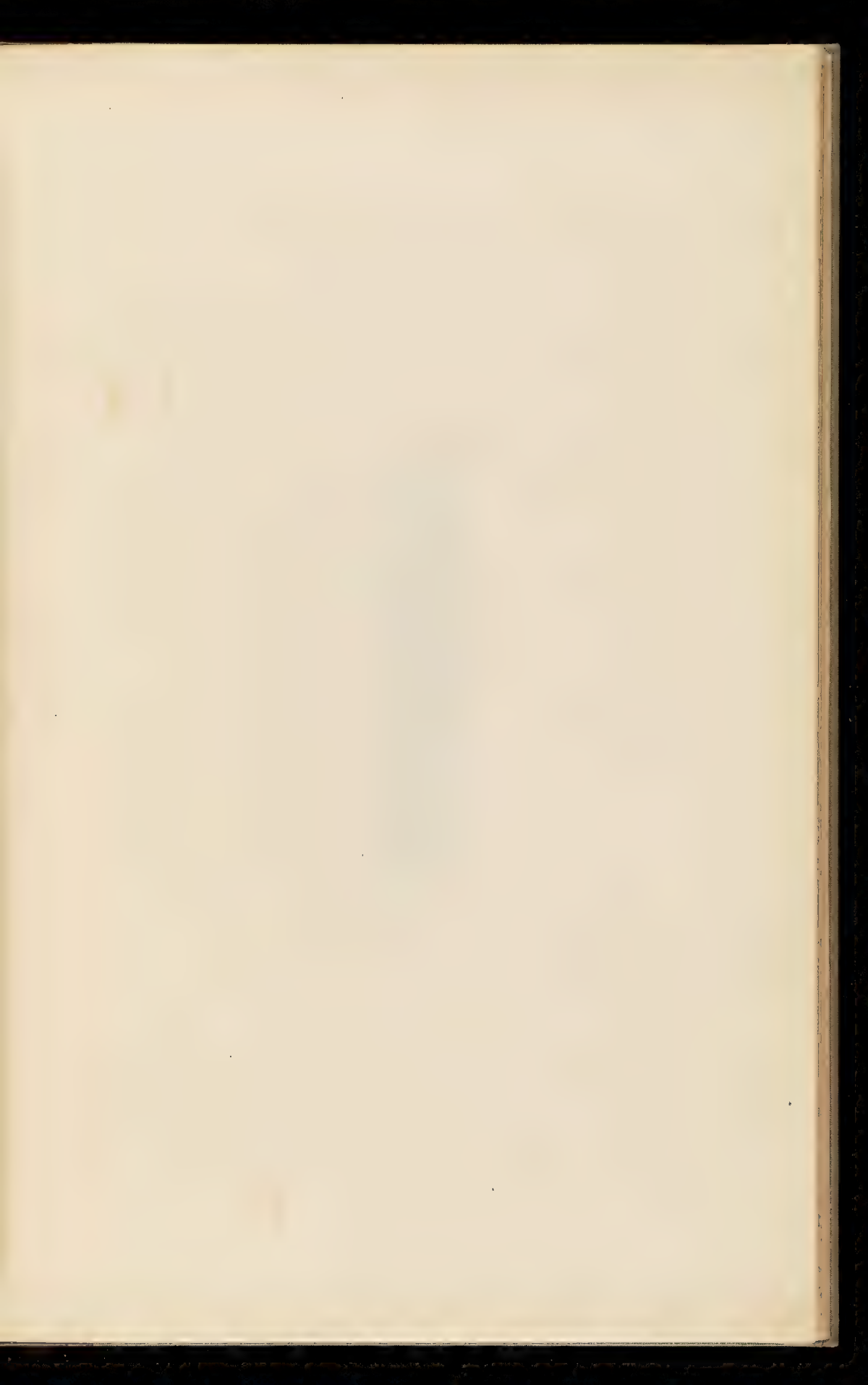


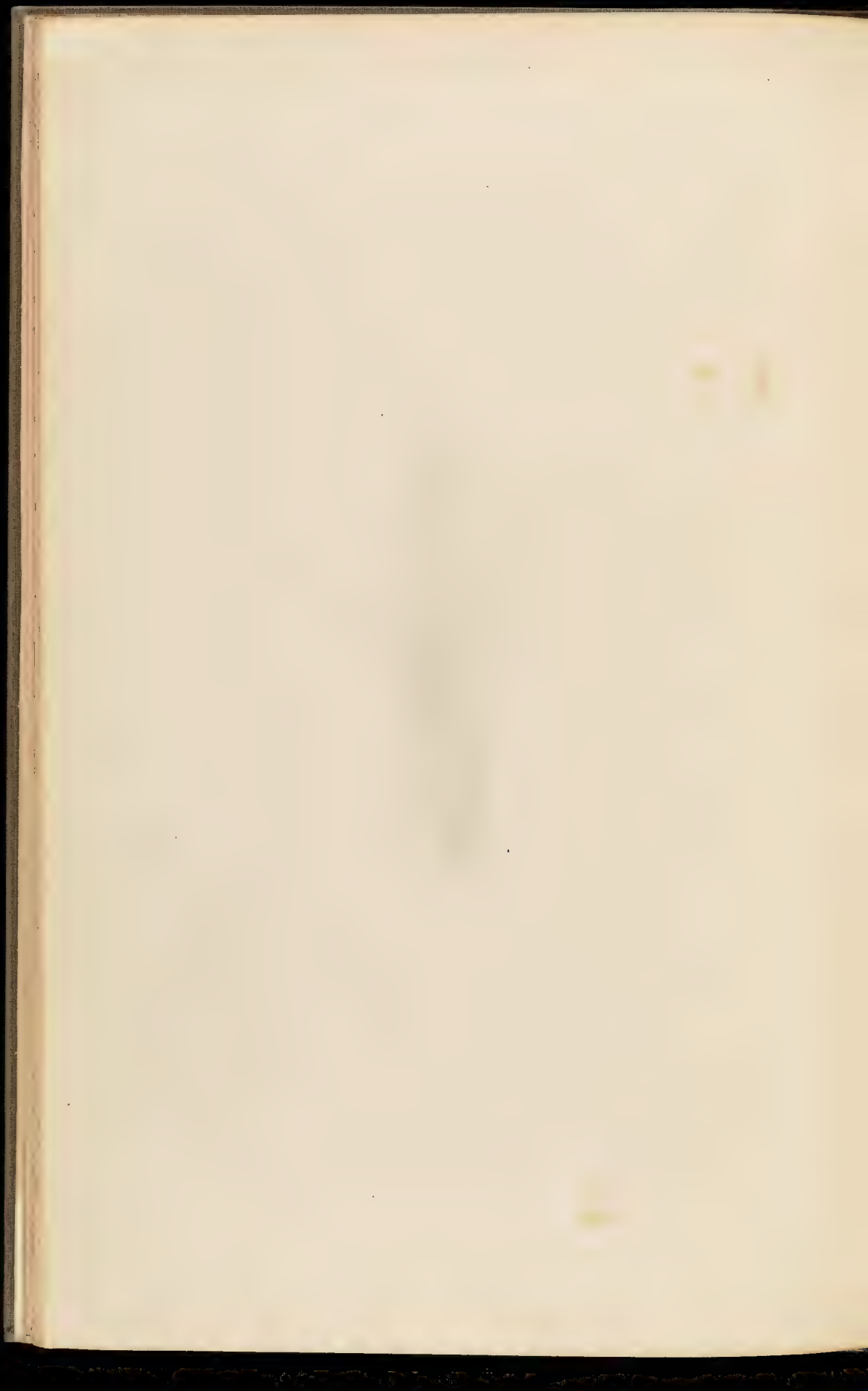
Map of the Phyle.

Map of the Oenoe.

J. P. Nichol. Sculp.







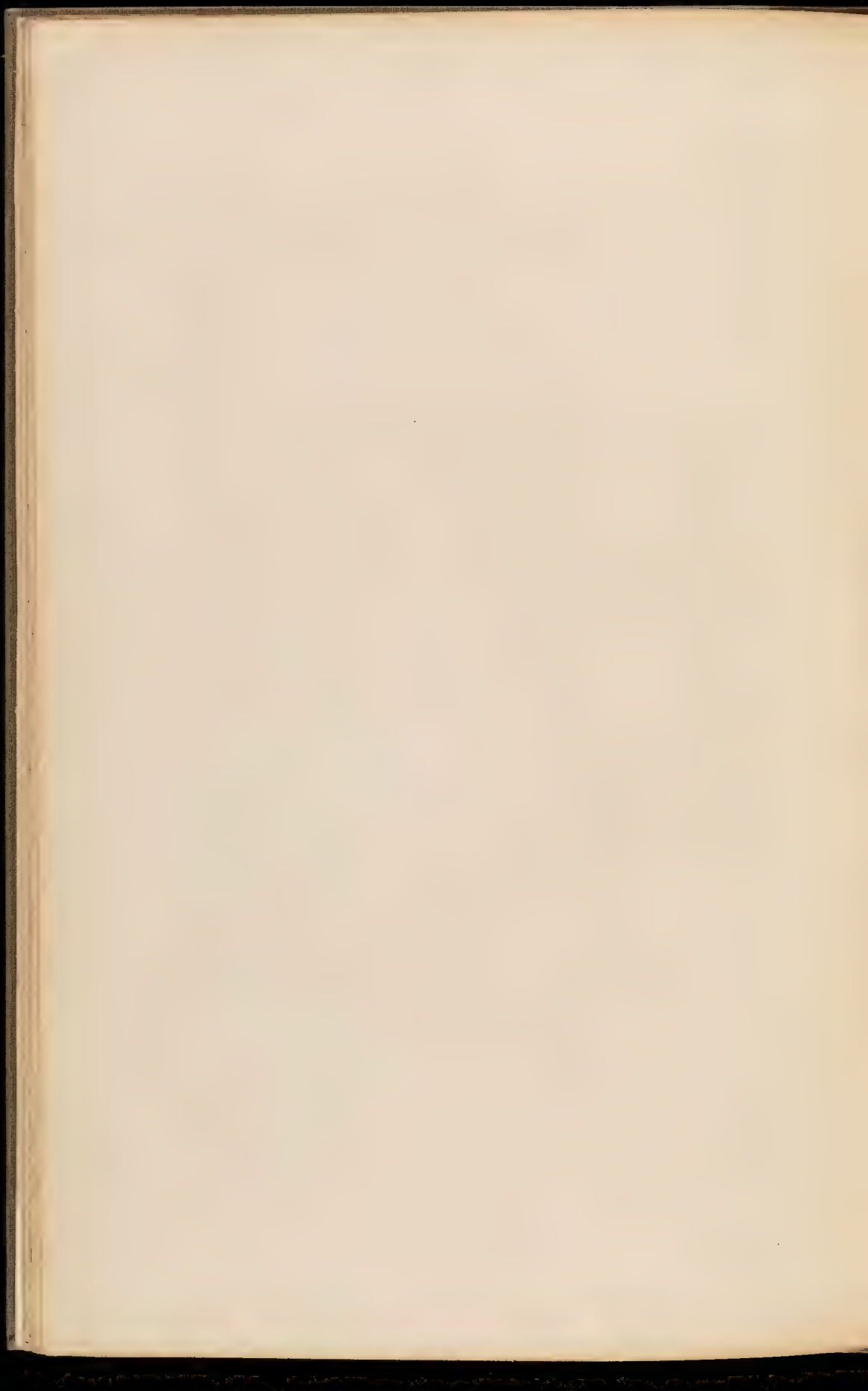


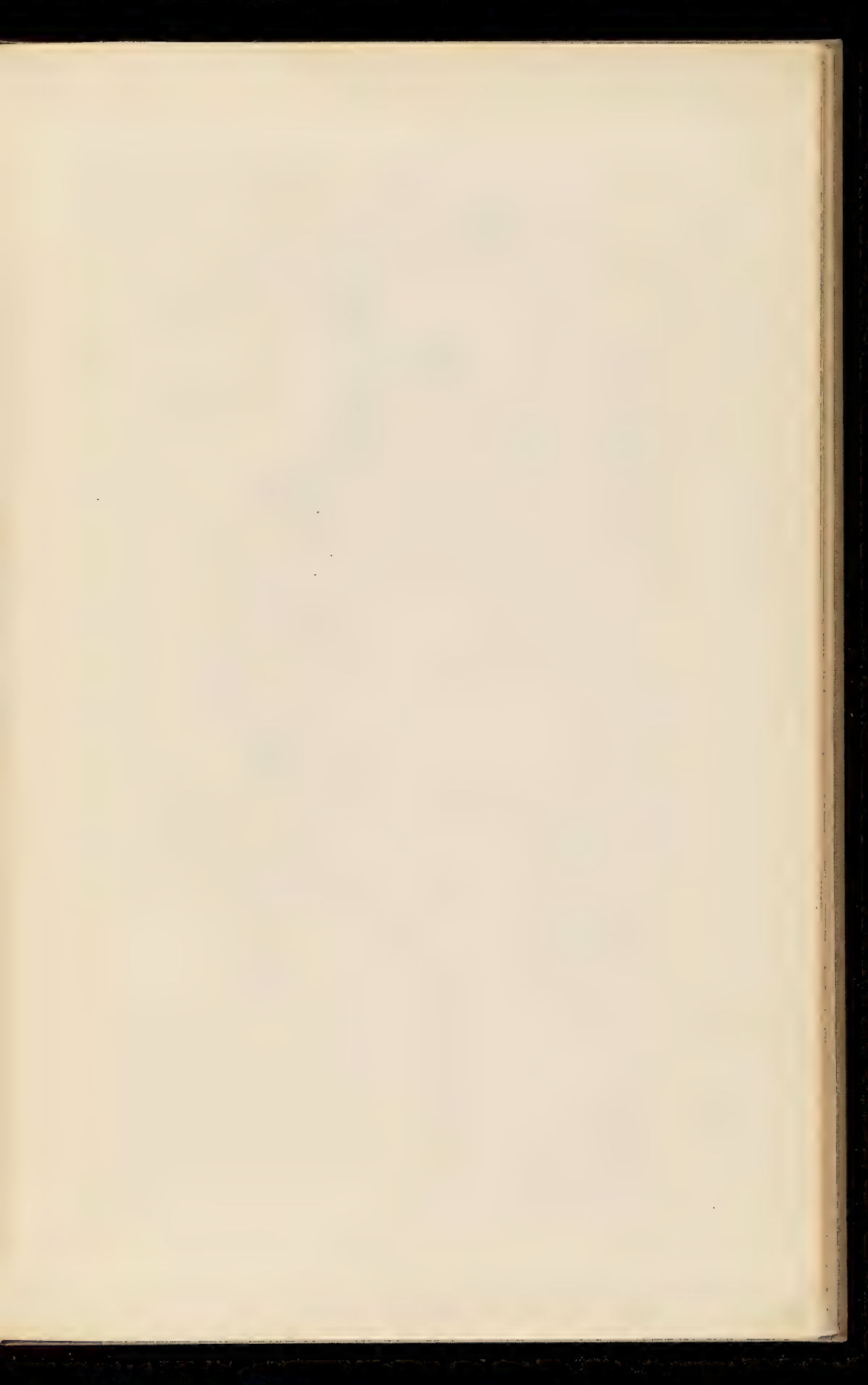


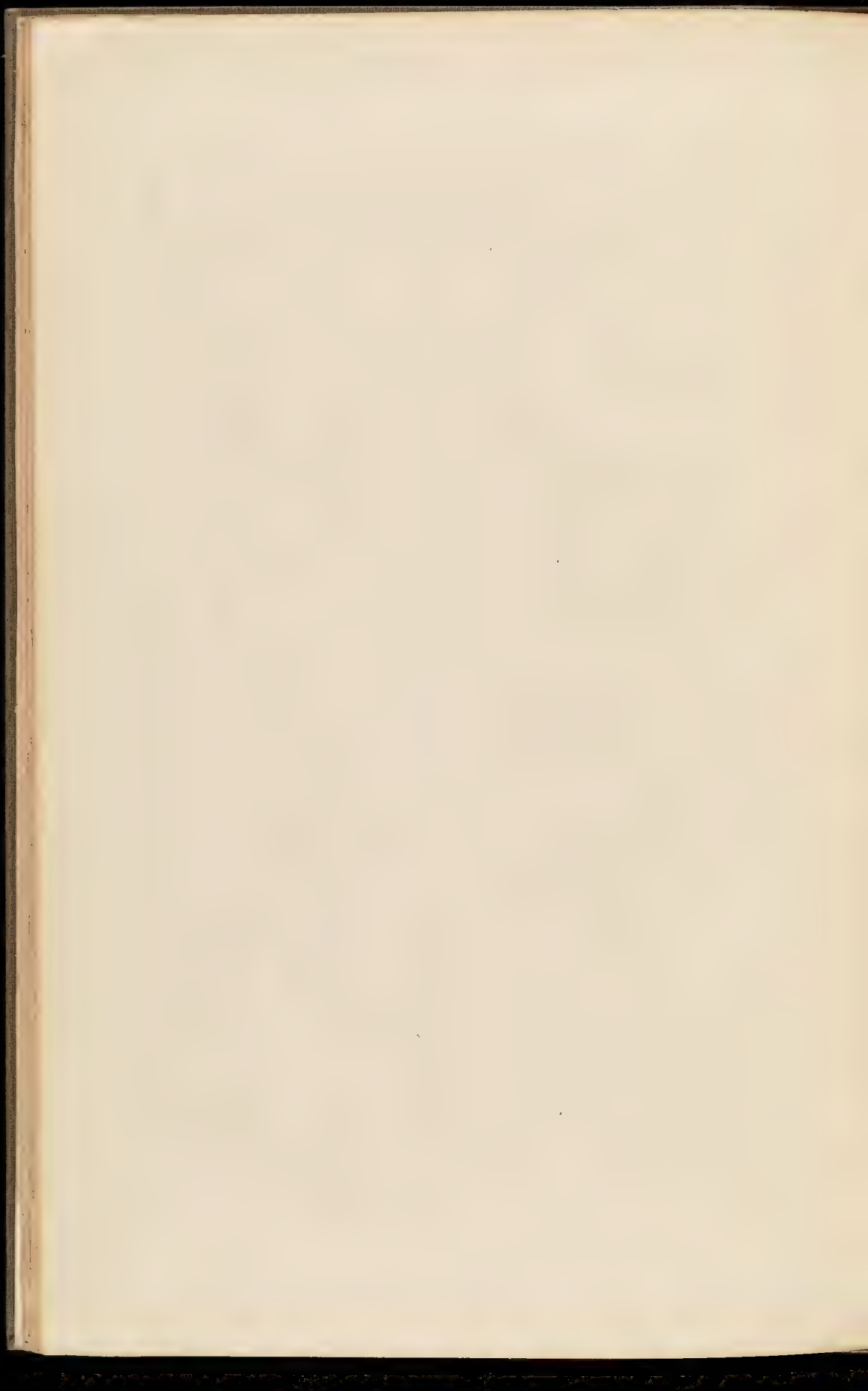


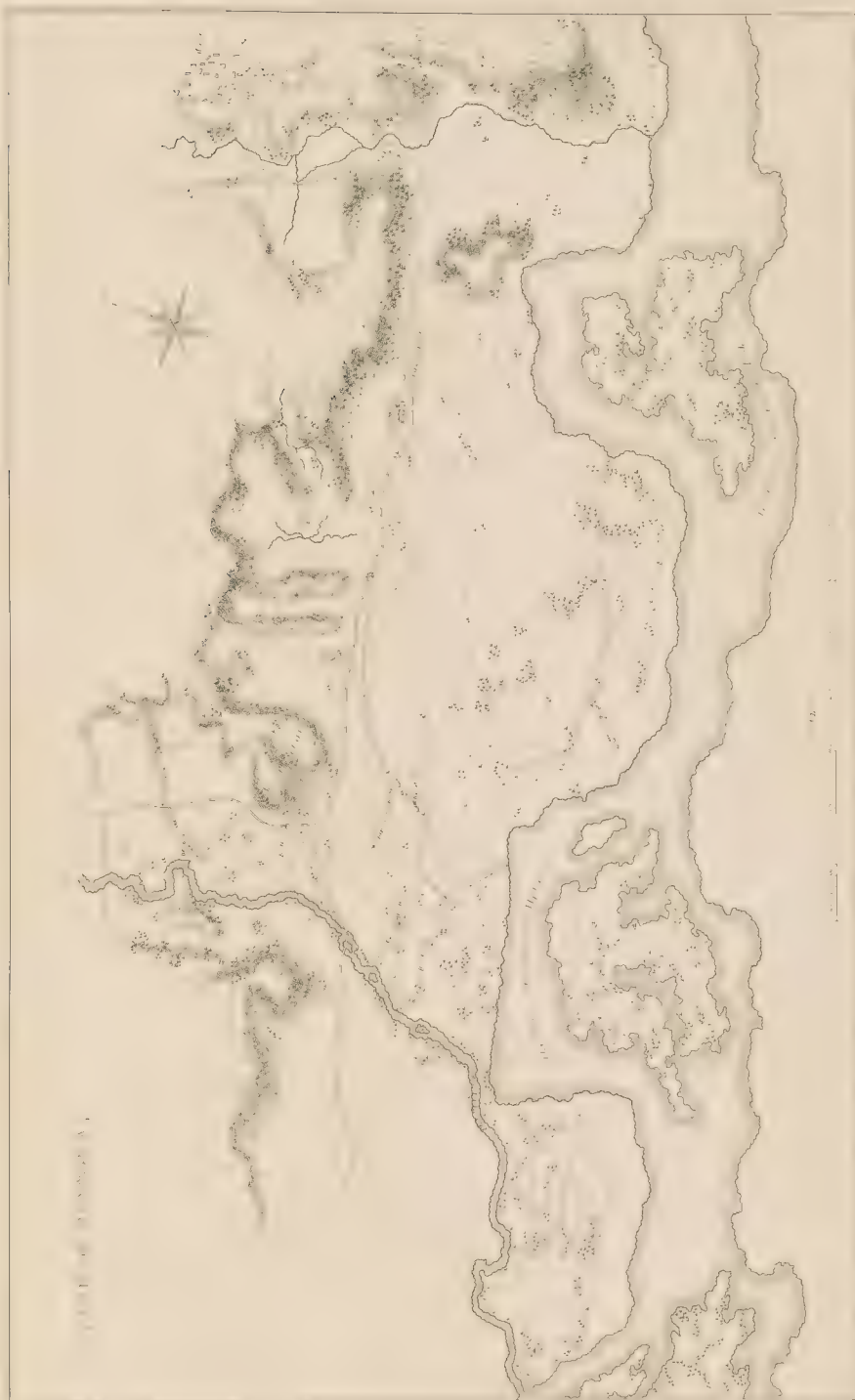


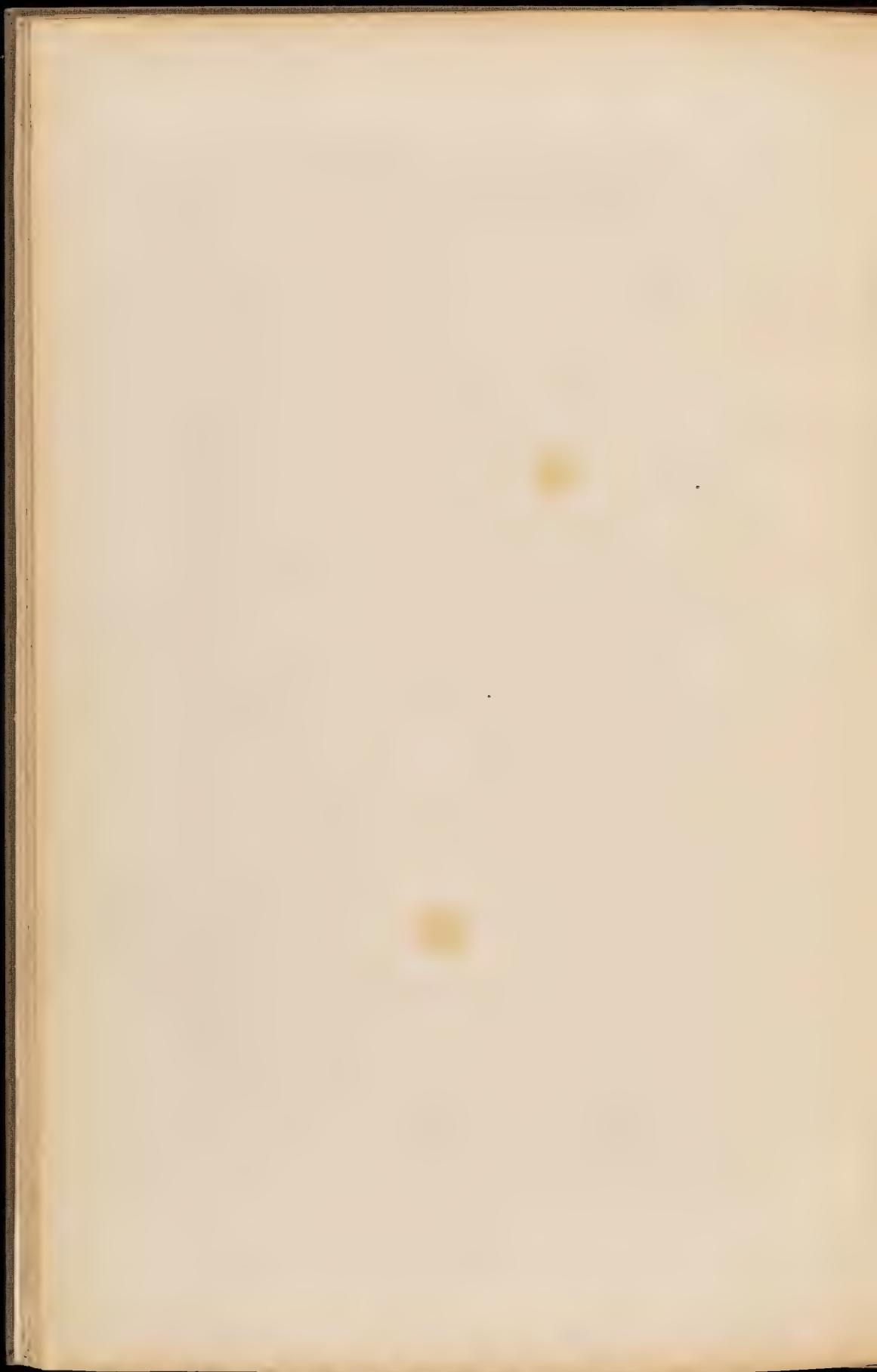












DESCRIPTION OF OLYMPIA.

The Plain of Olympia is situated on the right bank of the Alpheus, now known by the name of Rufeo, which, from the extent of its bed, and the rapidity of its course, may still be considered one of the finest rivers in Greece. It is of a milky colour; and, during our residence in Olympia, we perceived a considerable diminution in the body of its waters. The banks are steep, and, its course having frequently been changed, its appearance is diversified by several islands covered with shrubs. A chain of mountains, that rise immediately from the southern bank of the Alpheus, terminates the valley in that direction, though the river itself forms the southern boundary of the plain. To the north it is bounded by another chain, in which Mount Saturn (Chronios) appears conspicuous. A conical hill rising near the northern bank, and running almost at right angles with the northern range, may be considered as its eastern boundary; whilst on the opposite side, a river, supposed to be the Cladeus, marks out its western termination.

The only valley of any importance in the northern range, is that called by M. Fauvel, Andilalo, or the Echo, (perhaps more properly Antilalo), and by others Antilalla: it is a pretty retired vale, the entrance of which is formed by the Chronian mountain; it is watered by the Cladeus, which, however honoured by the ancient Eleans, is but an insignificant rivulet. This valley is cultivated, and the mountains here, as well as throughout Olympia, are clothed with magnificent pines, which are striking from the peculiar roundness of their forms. We saw no appearance of the village of Andilalo mentioned by Fauvel, unless a mill on the banks of the Cladeus, be all of it that now remains. The only village we perceived at Olympia, was that of Miraka, situated on a summit above the plain, to the north-east, and overlooking a small vale which is beautifully ornamented by a variety of shrubs, and by a stream which flows through a steep and rocky bed to join the Alpheus.

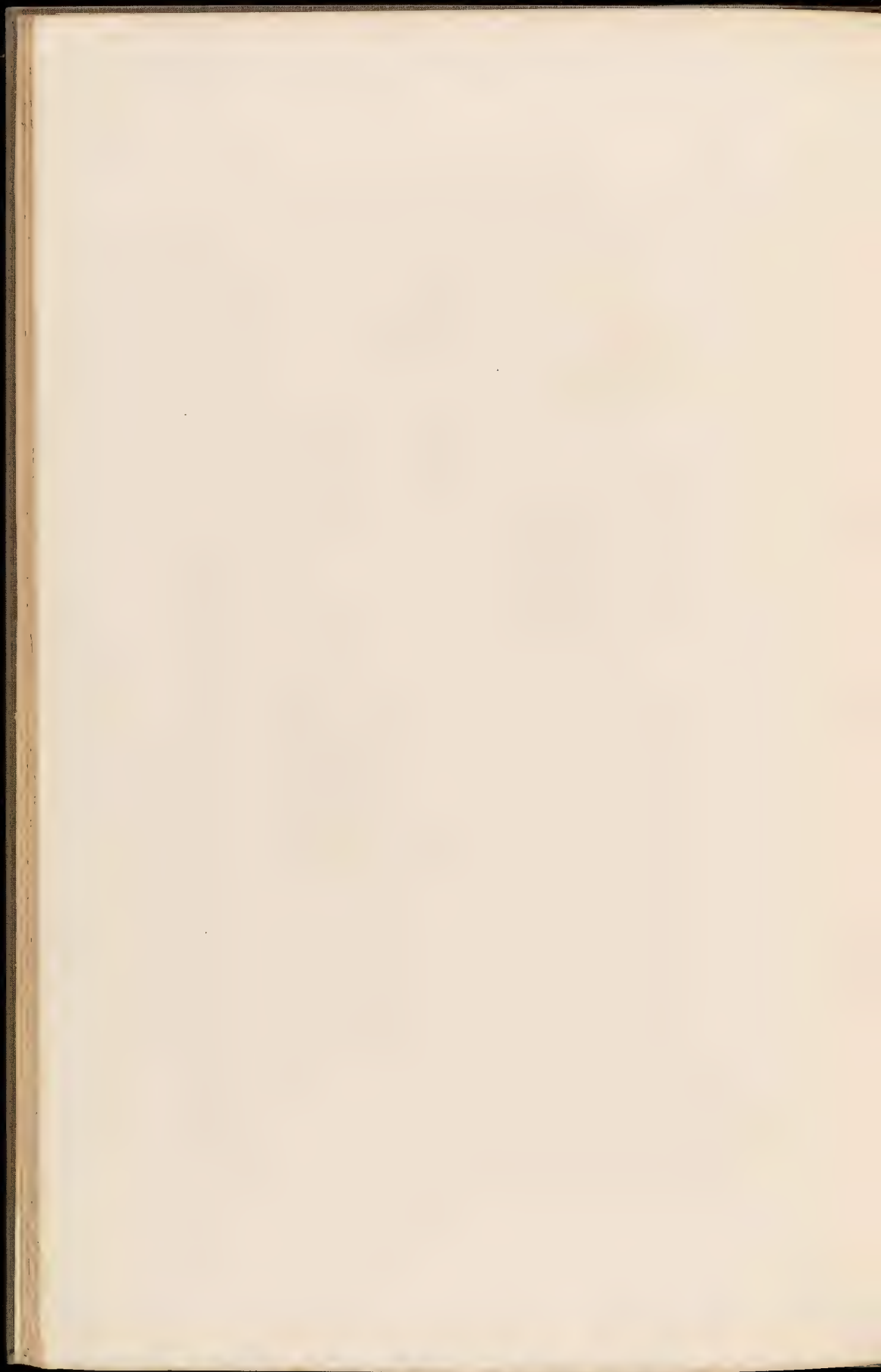
It is scarcely necessary to look for proofs to establish the identity of this plain with that of Olympia, as it never appears to have been questioned. From Strabo we learn that Olympia was eighty stadia from the temple of Diana Alpheiona, which stood near the mouth of the Alpheus, a distance which the learned editors of the French translation consider as erroneous, and propose the substitution of one hundred and thirty stadia: this does not, however, appear to me to correspond so well with the position of the Plain of Miraka, as the distance given by Strabo; since, to speak generally, the Cladeus is about three hours, i.e. nine miles from the mouth of the Alpheus.

Little now remains of what is supposed to have been the Temple of Jupiter, except some of its foundations, and fragments, which can only serve to prove that it was of the Doric order; sufficient, however, is not left to establish that its proportions answered to those of the Temple of Jupiter, as described by Pausanias. An excavation has been made round the ruins; but the space enclosed is only 125 feet by 60 feet; whereas, the area of the Temple of Jupiter was 230 feet by 95 feet. Other travellers have been more fortunate than ourselves. Chandler found a massive capital of the Doric order; and, more recently, both Sir William Gell and Mr. Cockerell saw fragments that appeared to correspond with the proportions assigned by Pausanias to the Temple. The testimony of such travellers cannot but appear to us decisive of this fact. Undoubtedly then, the ruins of the Temple, the junction of the Alpheus with the river supposed to be the Cladeus, as well as the distance of the Plain from the mouth of the former, are sufficient grounds for considering the plain below Miraka, as that in which were celebrated the Olympic Games.

The ruins actually existing at Olympia are very inconsiderable: with the exception of the Temple, they are all of brick, and of that style of construction which has been usually attributed to the Romans.

In the valley of Antilalo, near the mill before alluded to, as situated on the banks of the Cladeus, are some insignificant ruins. Nearer to the entrance of the valley are the remains of a building constructed with arches. Immediately in front of the entrance is a hill, where M. Fauvel recognised the remains of a theatre. Though I particularly examined this spot, I do not remember to have observed any thing which could authorise such a conjecture; but I traced the foundation of a small square building. To the south are vestiges of the Temple of Jupiter, and to the south-west of the latter are other ruins, in which arches again occur. In the same direction, and nearer to the Cladeus, some foundations may also be remarked.

The Plan of Olympia, the principal object of the present publication, was undertaken by desire of the Third Class of the Institute, now the Academy of Inscriptions and Belles Lettres.





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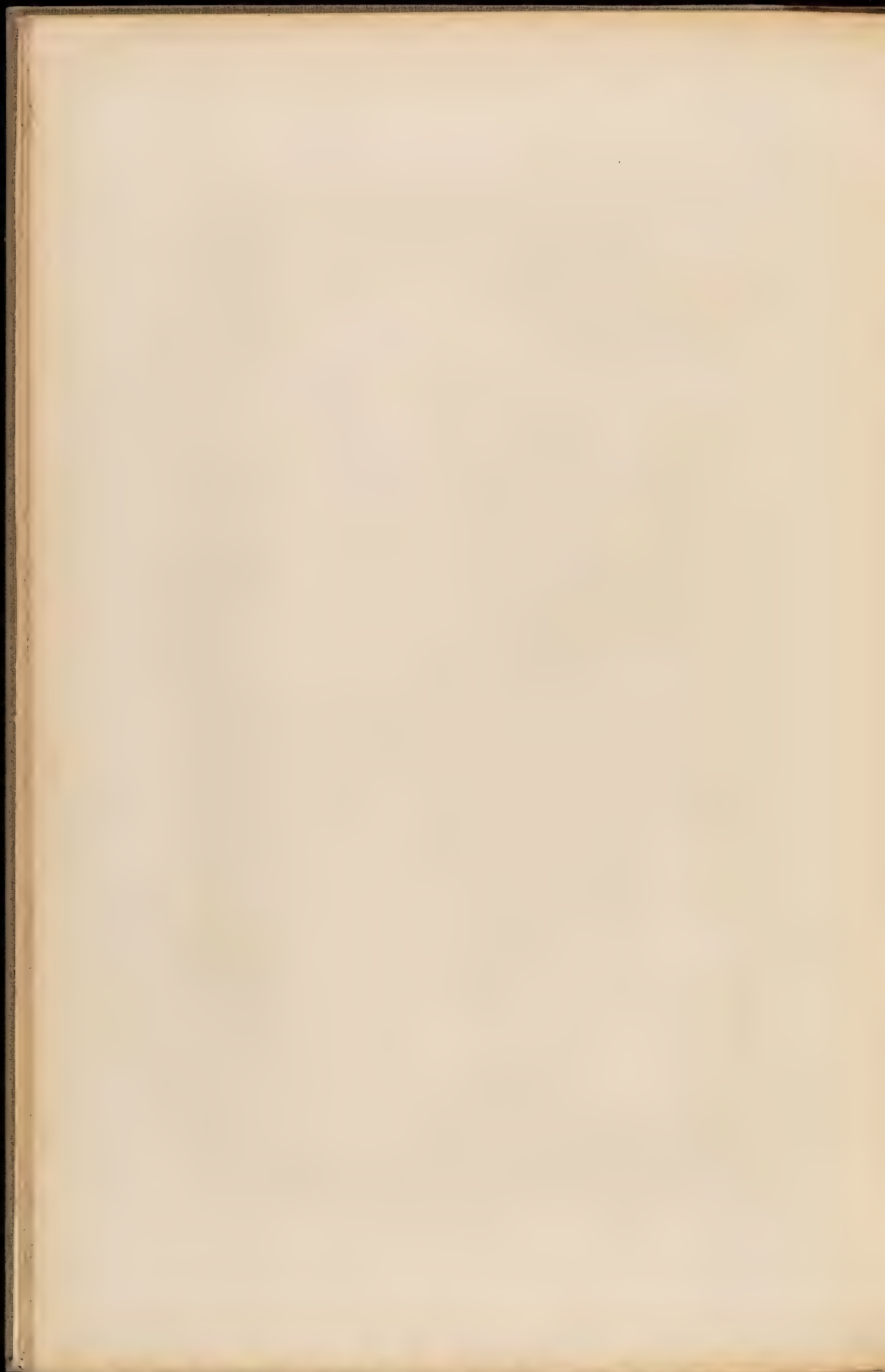
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VIEW IN THE PLAIN OF OLYMPIA.

No. 2, IN THE PLAN.

This view is taken from a little valley in the northern range of mountains: it represents the principal part of the Plain of Olympia, including the supposed positions of the Hippodrome, the Alpheus, and the mountains beyond. Perhaps, the pleasure with which I have frequently contemplated the scene itself makes me partial to this view, as here we generally retired during the heat of the day, to repose ourselves from our fatigues by the side of a spring of the clearest water; but to me it appears to represent most happily the tranquil beauty which forms the principal character of the Plain of Olympia.

VIEW OF THE PLAIN OF OLYMPIA.

No. 3, IN THE PLAN.

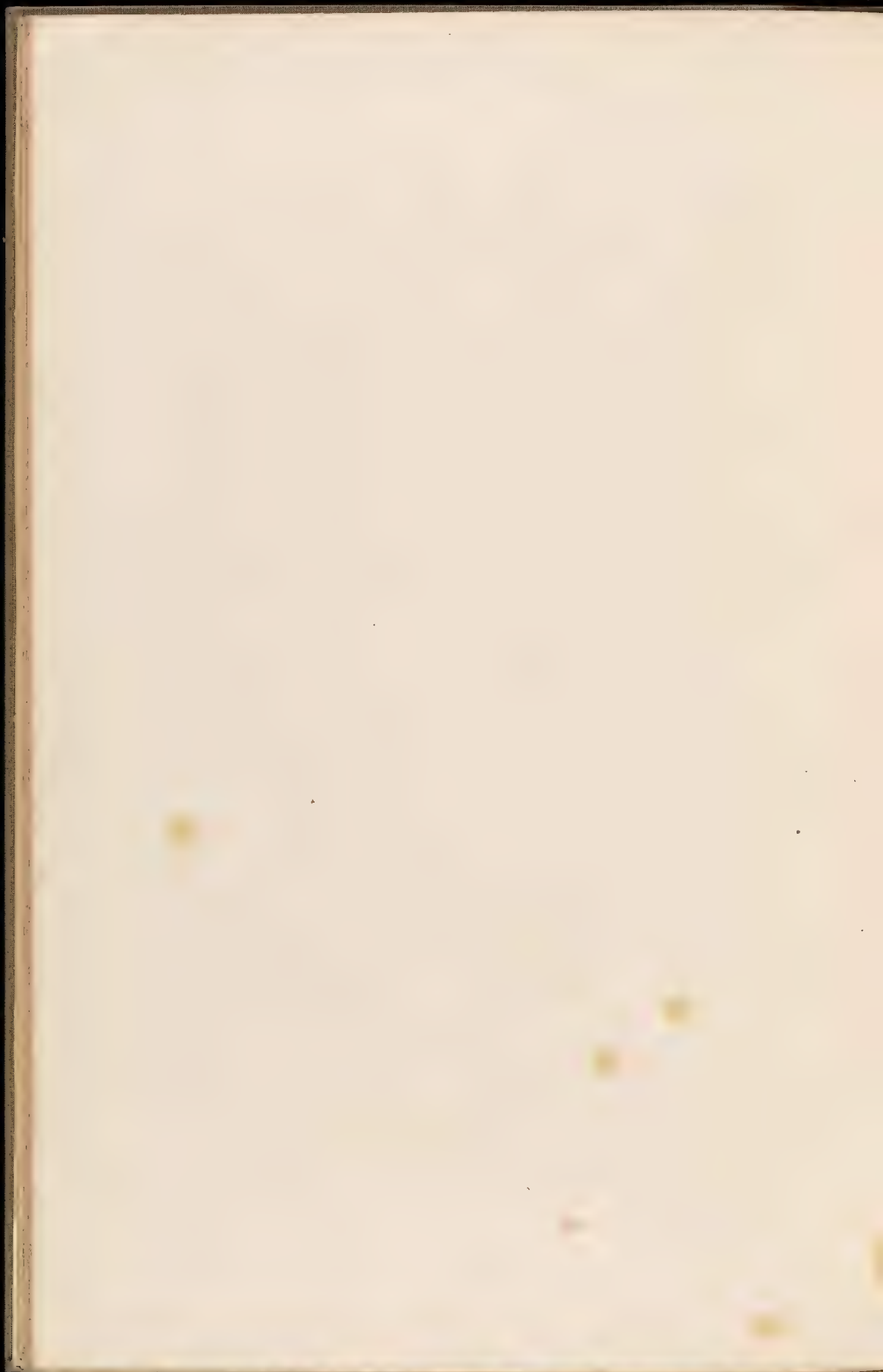
This view commands the whole length of the Plain of Olympia as it is taken from its eastern extremity; immediately in the fore-ground is the conical hill which has been mentioned as its eastern boundary; on the right is the mountain opposite the village of Miraka, beyond is Mount Saturn. The course of the Alpheus may be traced winding at the foot of the southern range of mountains, the highest point of which, Palaio Phanaro, may be distinguished quite to the left. Having crossed the river in a boat called a monoxyla, we ascended this mountain; and though we had been led by its name, and the information we had received, to expect some ancient ruins, we saw only a cistern, and a hut inhabited by a shepherd's family, but observed no traces of the village that existed when Sir W. Gell visited this spot. "Hence," says he, speaking of the passage of the river, "a most dangerous path ascends among pines to the village of Palaio Phanaro, where are twenty-five houses and a tower or pyrgo of Ali Aga, a respectable Turk of Lalla. On the ascent is a fount. The loaded horses, unable to avoid the trees, frequently fall down the declivity towards the river till arrested by other trees. From the summit of the conic mount of Palaio Phanaro is a beautiful view in each direction towards Elis and Arcadia of the course of this river: slight indications of an ancient town or fortress may be discovered." We were three hours and a half in ascending the mountain from Miraka; we descended by a much more direct course, to the great alarm of our guide, and returned to the octagon in two hours and a half.

VIEW

EMBRACING THE SUPPOSED POSITION OF THE HIPPODROME.

My readers will, I feel convinced, require no apology for the insertion of this view, taken from a sketch for which I am indebted to the kindness of Mr. Thomas Saunders, as it embraces the most important part of the Plain; that in which are the ruins of the Temple, and the site of the supposed Hippodrome; and also, as it will enable them, by comparing this with Mr. Allason's views, to form a correct opinion of their general accuracy.

In front, the line of the bank forming part of the supposed Hippodrome may be distinguished, though partially concealed by the shrubs in the fore-ground, and appearing straighter than it really is; immediately before us are the ruins of the Temple; to the right those marked C, (*vide plans*); still further, the Cladeus, apparently falling into the Alpheus, though as may be seen by the plan, the junction does not so immediately take place: beyond the Alpheus, here in its full expanse, is the southern range of mountains, including the highest summit, Palaio Phanaro, of which we have already spoken.





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PLANS OF THE RUINS.

The buildings at Olympia are, in general, in too ruinous a state to admit either of much description, or of conjecture as to the object for which they were constructed. I shall, therefore, merely lay before my readers the following general observations made upon them by Mr. Allason.

"DESCRIPTION OF THE PLAN, AND ELEVATION, DISTINGUISHED BY THE LETTER A.

"This building, with all the other ancient ruins in the Plain of Olympia, is constructed with brick-work: very little remains to explain its original form and destination. It is situated on the eastern bank of the Cladeus, a little advanced within the valley of Antilalo. A wall sixteen feet high, supporting the bank of the river, forms its principal feature; from this are projected two cross walls, making a chamber of 28 feet 9 inches in length, by 26 feet 6 inches in width, in one part, and 13 feet 2 inches in another; in the widest part of this chamber there is a circular recess. There are also the remains of a square niche in the wall supporting the bank, and which probably contained a statue. Every part of this building has been enclosed with arches, and to all appearance it has been of considerable extent, as fragments of walls are found for some distance; and on the Plain above we traced some considerable foundations. The walls are constructed with brick on both sides, of a single thickness, the inside filled up with large round pebbles, and grouted with mortar. The size of these bricks is $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches square by $1\frac{1}{2}$ inches thick, and with mortar $2\frac{1}{2}$ inches in thickness; half bricks $9\frac{1}{2}$ inches by $5\frac{1}{4}$ and $1\frac{1}{8}$ inches thick. The building marked by the letter B presents an area of 16 feet 5 inches square within the walls; it appears to have been part of a larger edifice; it has been domed, and all its openings arched. It is situated immediately in the entrance of the valley of Antilalo.

"The ruin marked by the letter C offers little more than the remains of two longitudinal walls, which have been enclosed with an arch: it is remarkable, that all these ruins have small square apertures, pierced obliquely through the walls: they appear to have been introduced for the purpose of ventilation.

"The last ruin represented in this plate shows the remains of a wall of a similar construction to the others. It is situated towards the eastern vicinity of the Plain, on the banks of the rivulet running through the valley of Miraka."

RUIN D.

This building is that which M. Fauvel supposed to be the stable for the cars, but which M. de Choiseul has declared to be the remains of the Aphasis, or barrier.

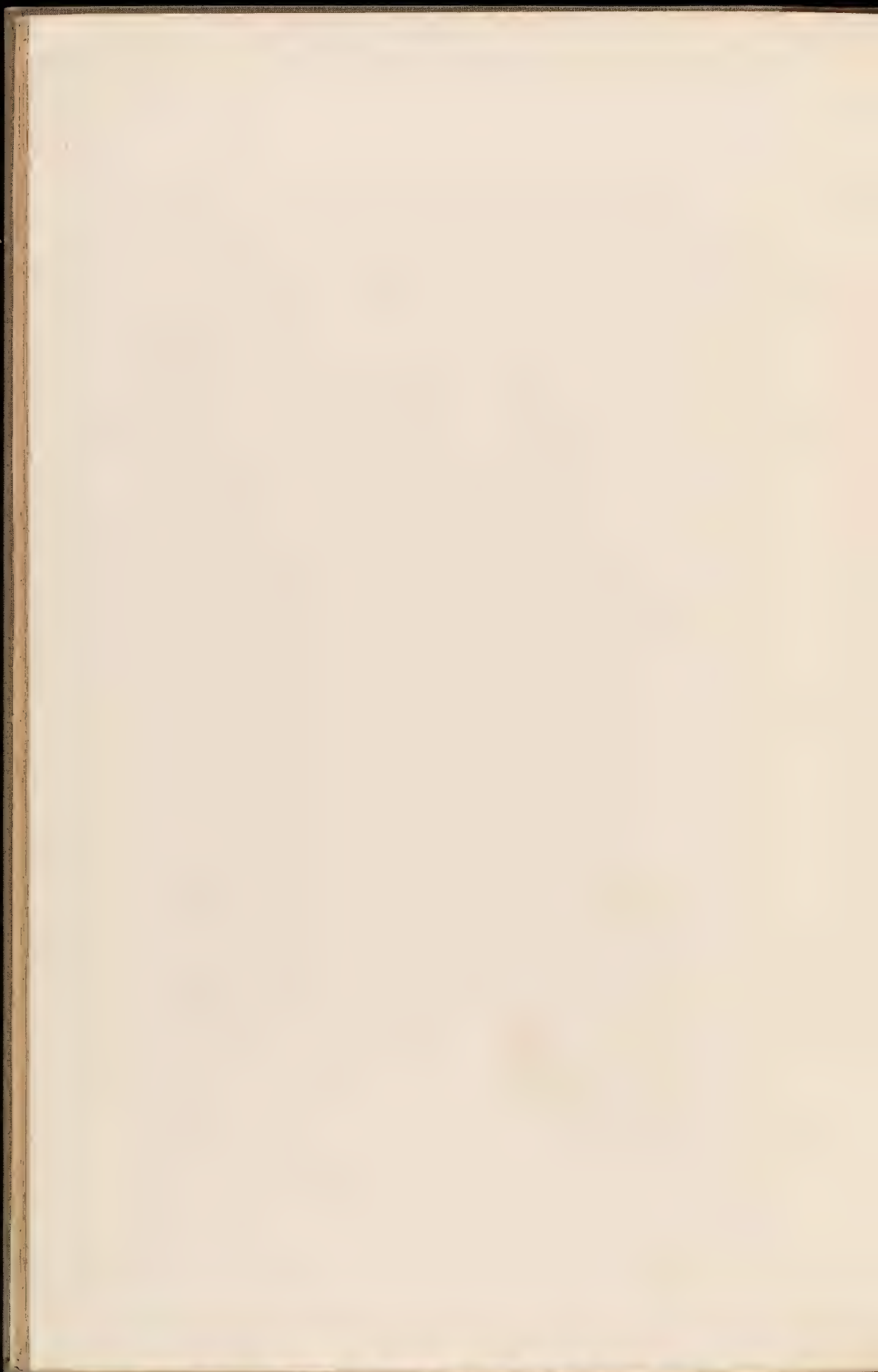
VIEW OF THE VALLEY OF ANTILALO.

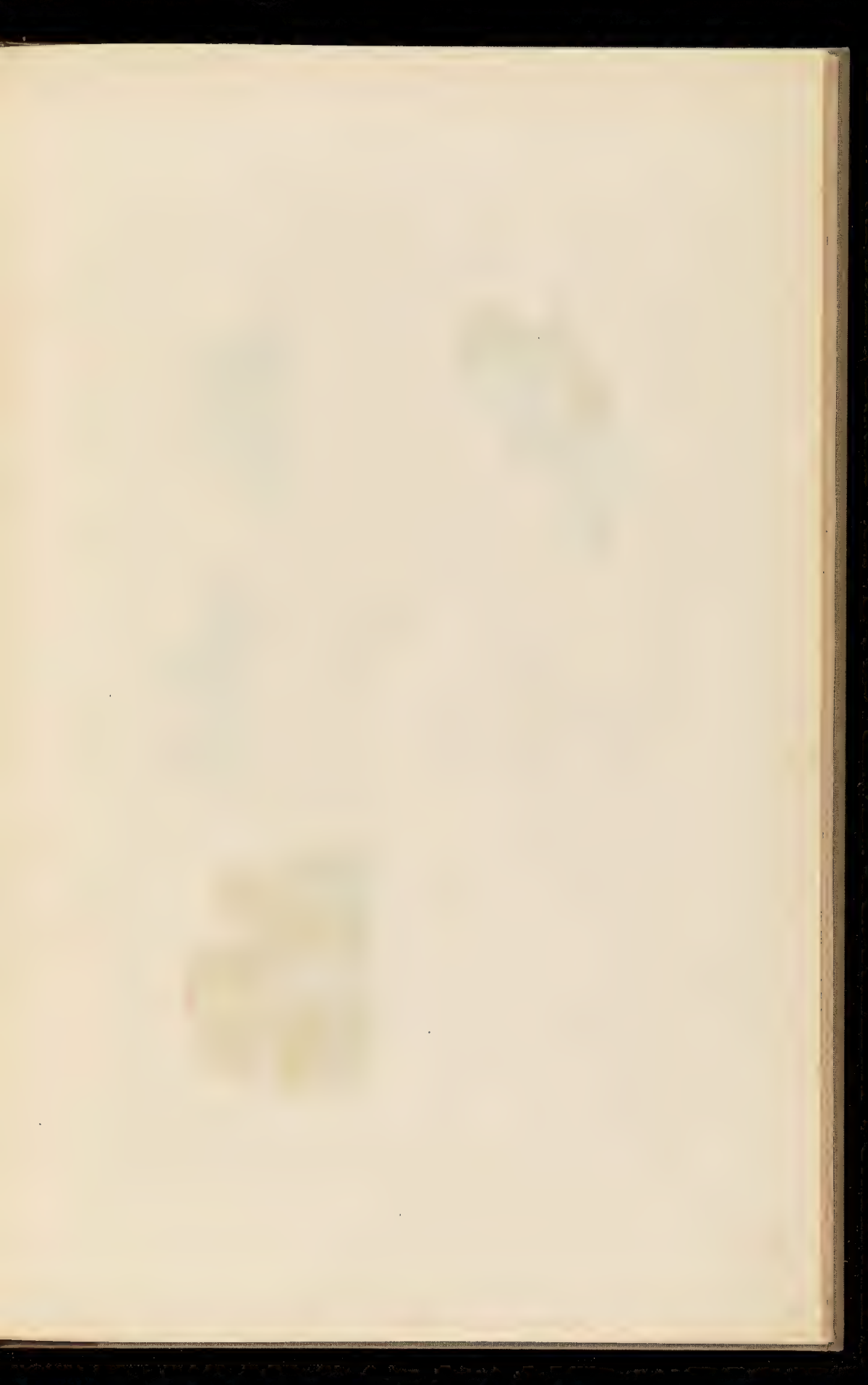
No. 1, IN THE PLAN.

This view represents the valley of Antilalo, or Antilalla, for to which name it has the better title I am not prepared to determine: the first derives its claim from the celebrated echo of Olympia, and is therefore most gratifying to the classical ear; the latter from the town of Lalla, which is, however, at two hours distance from Olympia. When on the spot I was not aware of any doubts as to the pronunciation of its name, and did not, therefore, take the pains I should otherwise have done to ascertain this point.

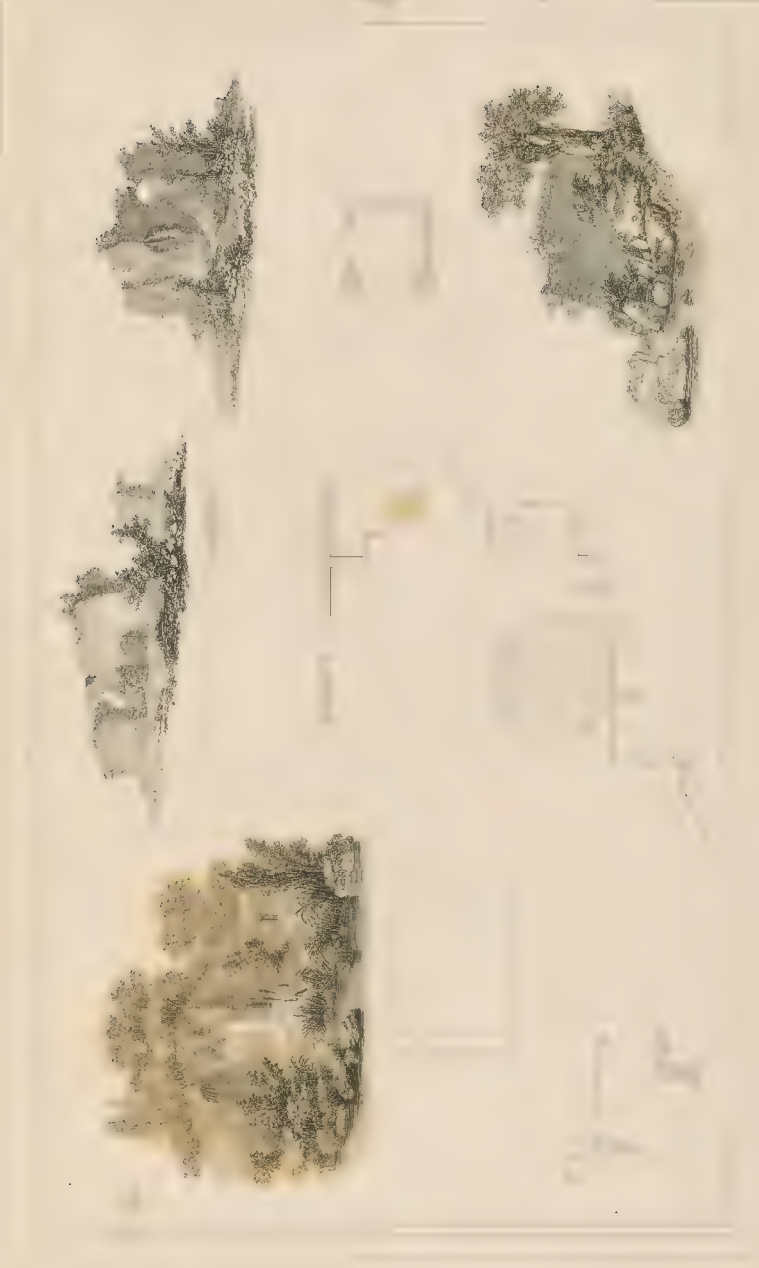
If the mountain to the right immediately at the entrance be, as has been conjectured, Mount Saturn, then indeed must this valley have formed one of the most interesting parts of Olympia, and must have been the site of many of the most splendid of its public buildings: it either formed part of the Altis, or immediately adjoined that consecrated grove. Two of the few remaining ruins at Olympia may be perceived in this view; to the left, that marked A (vide Plans of Ruins); to the right, and near Mount Saturn, the ruin marked B.

The Cladeus flows at the foot of the mountain to the left, but is not visible from the depth of its banks. The valley itself is extremely fertile, and the beautiful pines that cover the sides of the mountains render the scenery highly picturesque.







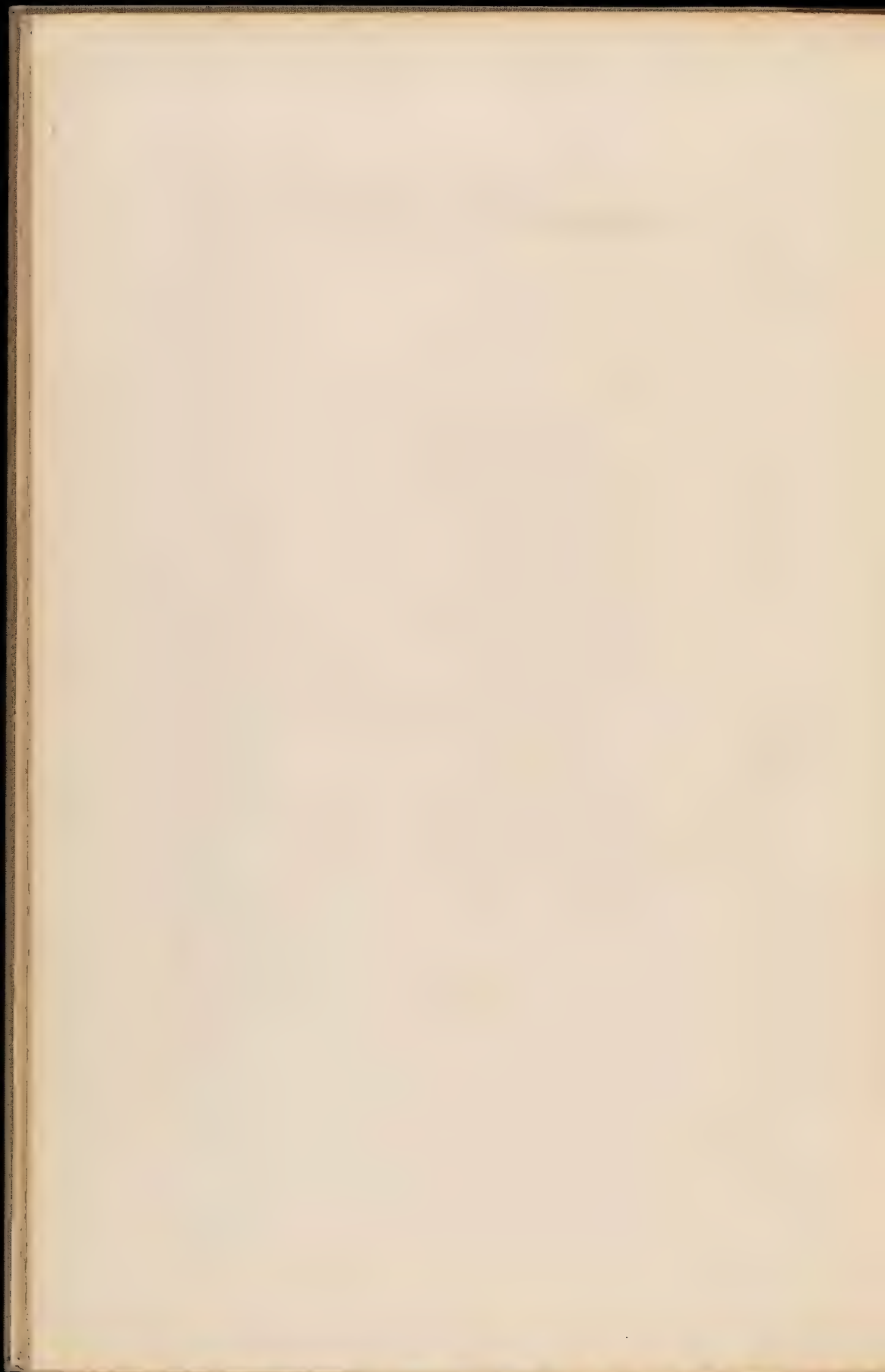








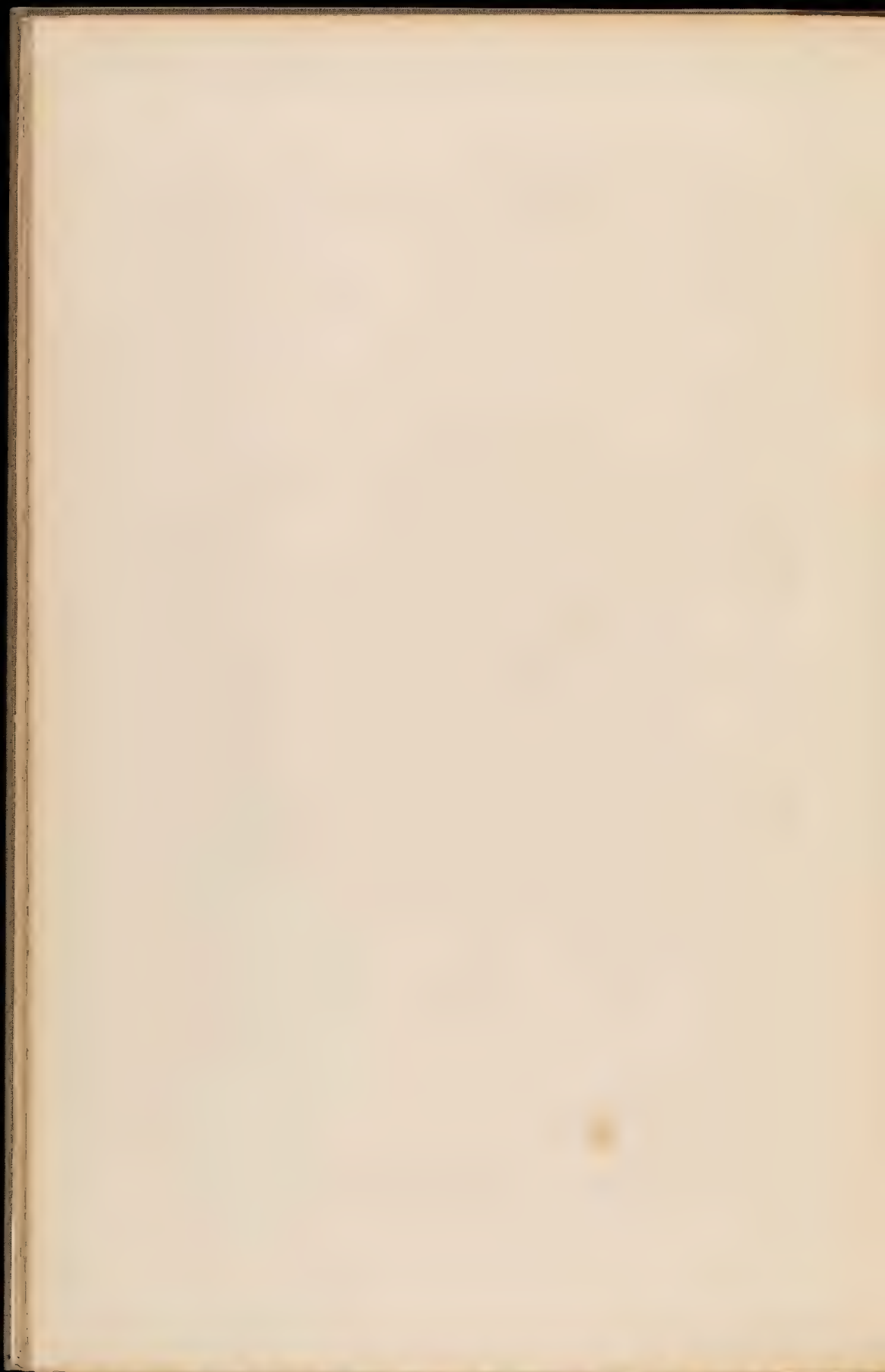


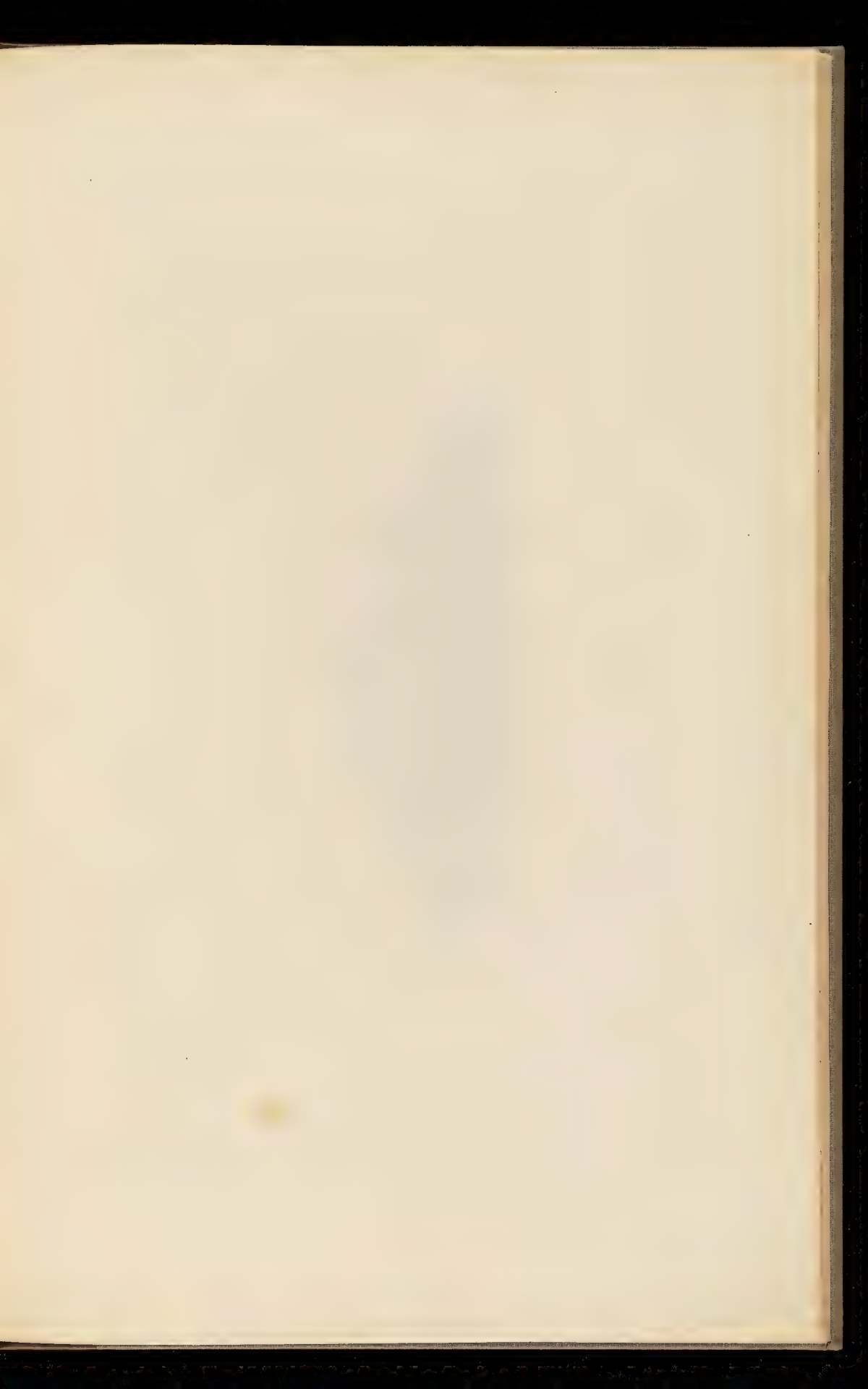






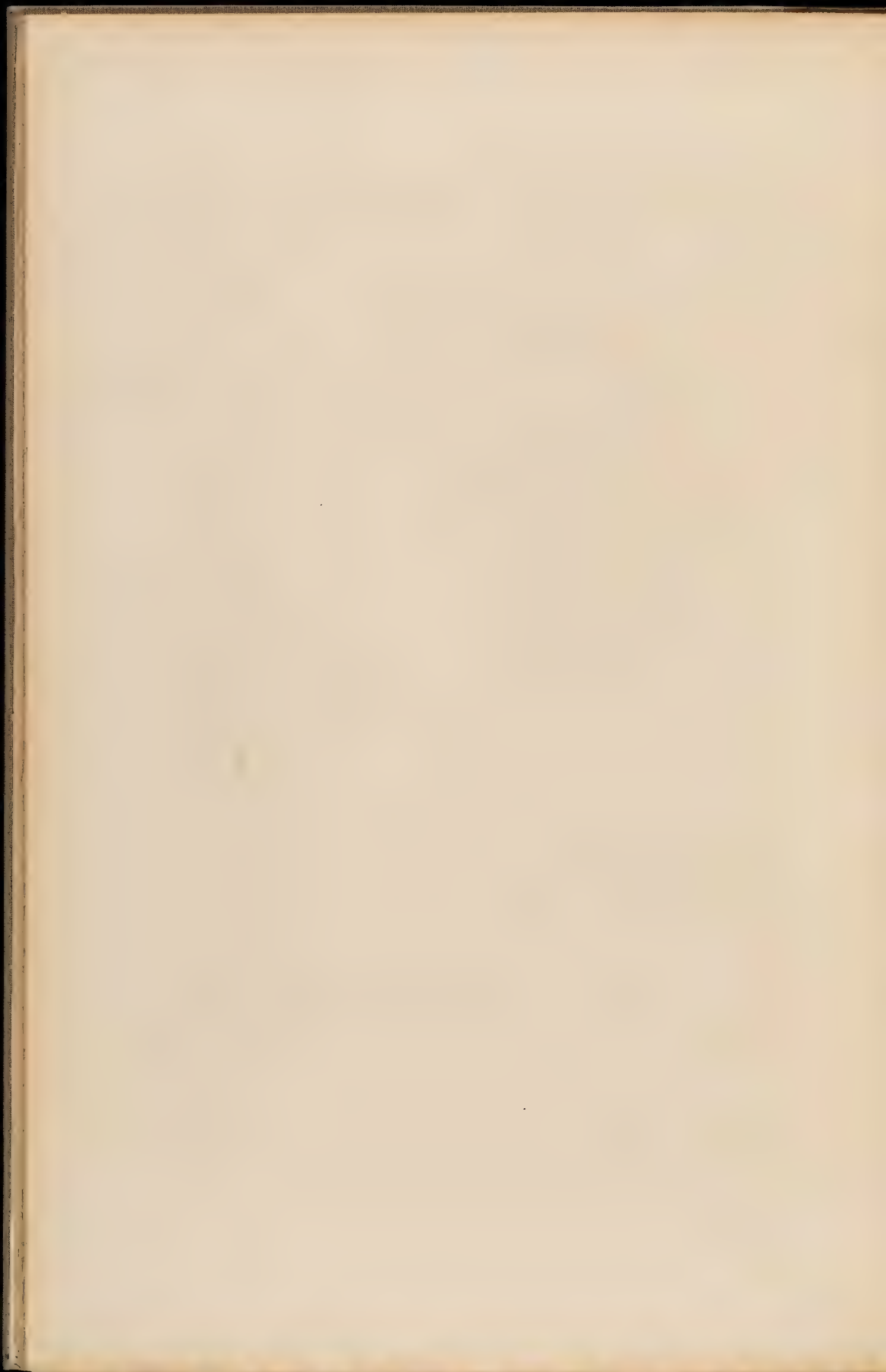












THE COURSE OF THE ALPHEUS,

AS SEEN FROM THE RUINS OF PALAIO ECCLESIA.

This view is taken from the ruins of a Greek church, now called Palaio Ecclesia, or the ancient church, and evidently occupying the site of a temple, as part of the peribolos still remains; they are situated below a large mass of rock which forms the summit of an elevated mountain, and occupy an area of 85 feet by 25 feet; they are rather less than an hour's distance from Miraka to the north-east, and command an extensive view of the vale of the Alpheus, including Olympia.

The fabulous history of this river renders it an object of such peculiar interest, that I need not apologize to my readers for laying before them a view which gives a representation of a considerable part of its course, as well as its junction with the sea. I had subsequently an opportunity of visiting the mouth of the Alpheus; it bore the appearance of a considerable river; six poloceas and a large Zantiote vessel were at anchor. A shallow bay is formed on its northern side by a bank of sand, which may be perceived in this view: the surf was then high, and the waves came rolling over the more tranquil waters of the Alpheus, so that they were not in the slightest degree visible after their junction. It is however possible that, in a calm sea, the milky colour of the river may be distinguished for a certain distance, and have thus partly given rise to its poetical history.

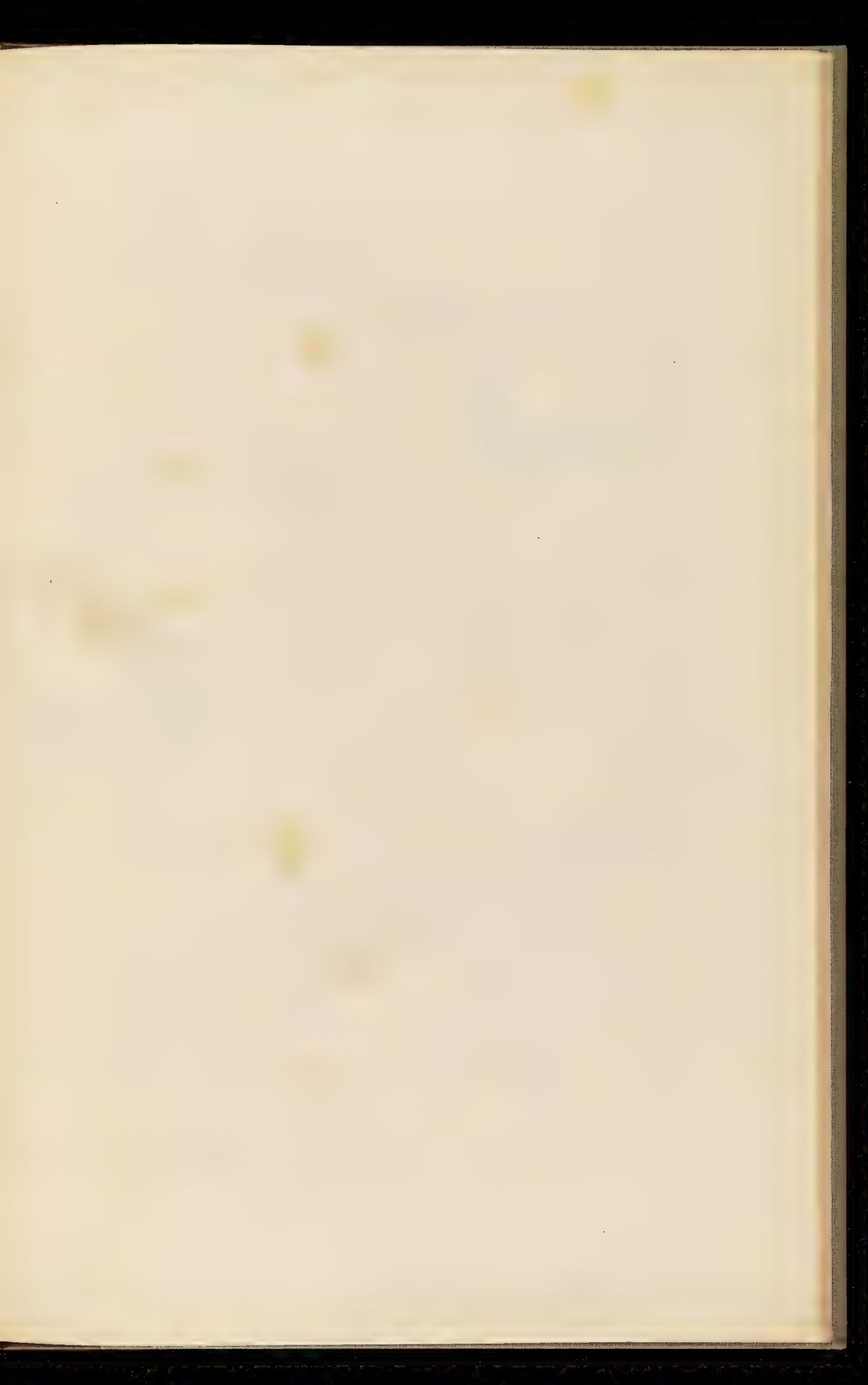
PLAN OF THE SITE OF ELIS.

As far as we can conjecture from the trifling remains that serve now to point out the site of Elis, that city was bounded to the north by the Peneus, now called Potami tou Gastouni, or the river of Gastouni: to the south it was terminated by a range of hills; to the east on the summit of a conical hill, stand the ruins of the Acropolis; and to the west, it was partly closed in by some low hills branching off towards the Peneus. In the Acropolis are the foundations of an ancient building, and of a tower, probably constructed by the Venetians, from which the name of Calloscopo appears to have been given to the Acropolis.

Considerable remains of brick buildings are scattered in the plain below. I have given plans of all those of which the forms could be at all determined. We saw a subterraneous passage, which, according to our guide, communicated with the citadel. On the banks of the Peneus, and a little below the surface of the ground, we perceived foundations composed of large stones laid in regular courses, but without cement.

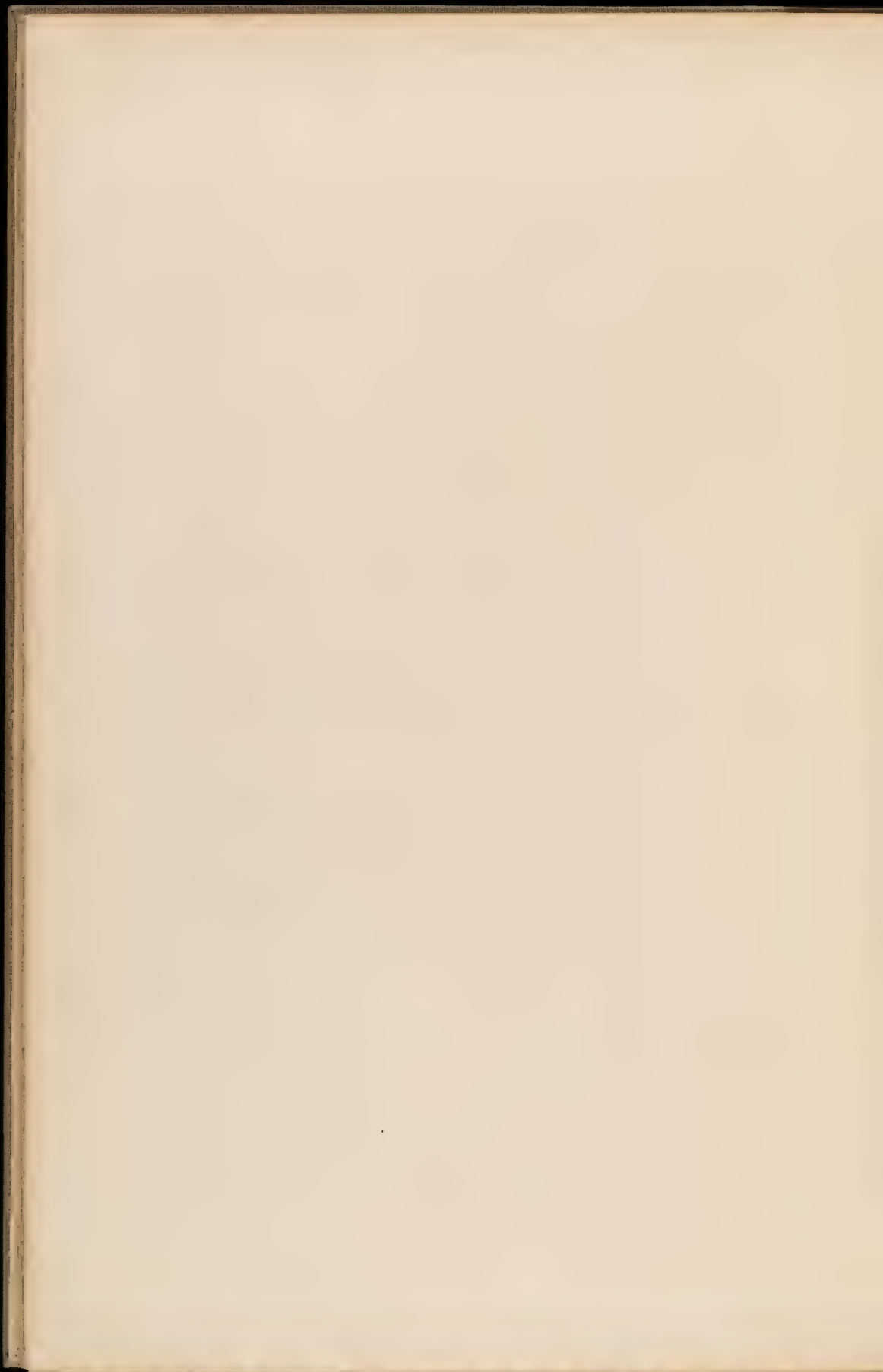
Two modern villages have risen on the site of the ancient city. Palaionpoli, which derives its name from the ruins, stands near the foot of the hill on which are the remains of the Acropolis. Calivia, or Kalybia, the name by which the other is at present designated, and which signifying a collection of huts, is frequently employed to distinguish those villages that have no other denomination, is situated towards the western extremity of the plain. Both of these villages are inhabited by Greeks, and in both are found fragments of architecture. During our stay here, the inhabitants of Calivia were occupied in digging a ditch across the plain. I was in hopes that this might have led to the discovery of some ancient remains; but in this expectation I was disappointed. That part of the plain represented in the plan offered the appearance of one continued corn-field, and seemed fully to justify the character of fertility for which the Plain of Elis was formerly so celebrated. I shall not take up the time of my readers with any observations on the Temples and Porticos which anciently embellished this city, as I could discover no traces of them, nor in any way ascertain their positions; nor shall I dwell upon the singular privilege which rendered it, as the guardian of Olympia, one of the most distinguished cities in Greece. Those who wish to know what Elis was in her days of splendour, are referred to the pages of Pausanias: my object is accomplished, if I have at all succeeded in representing to them what Elis now is.

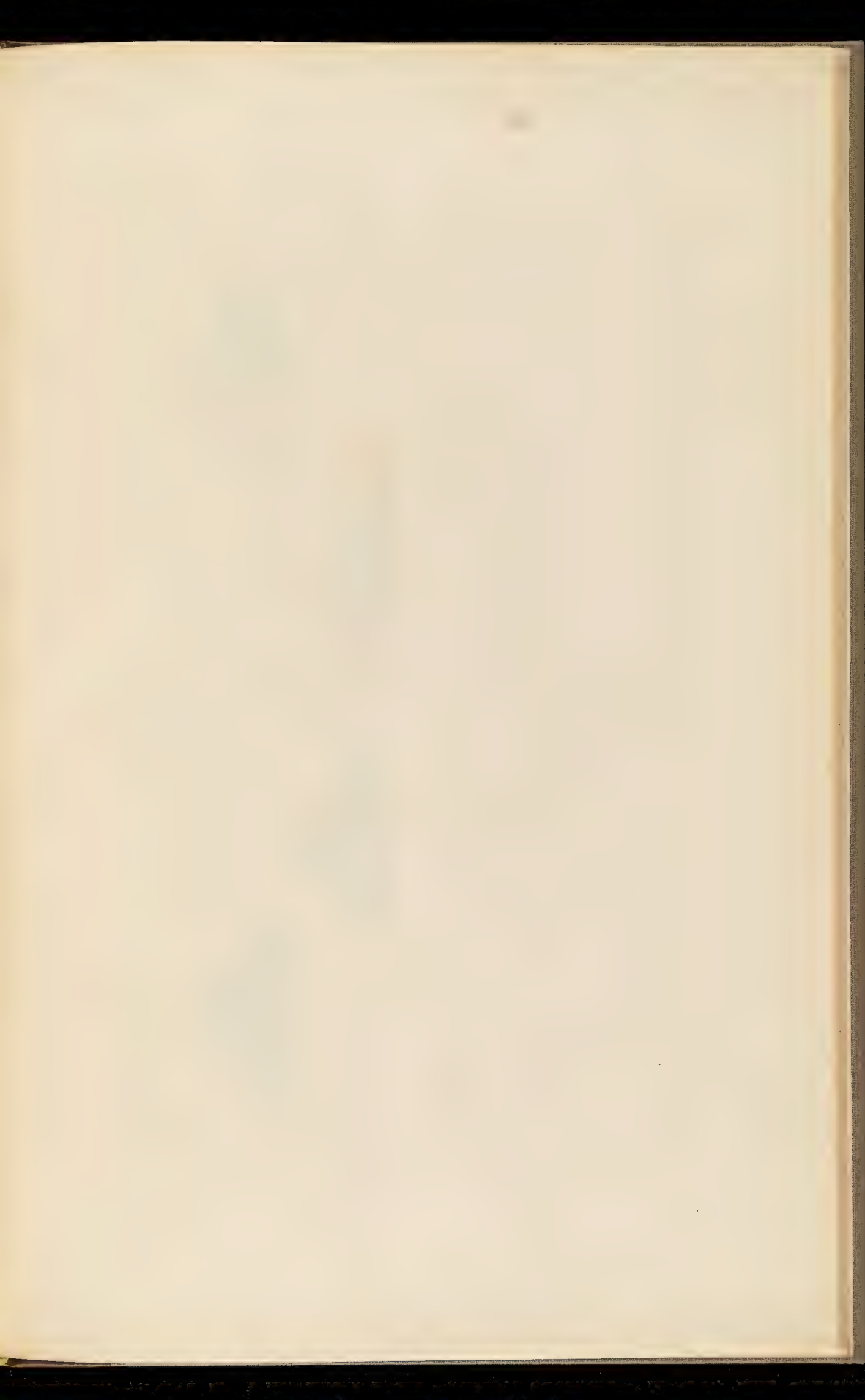


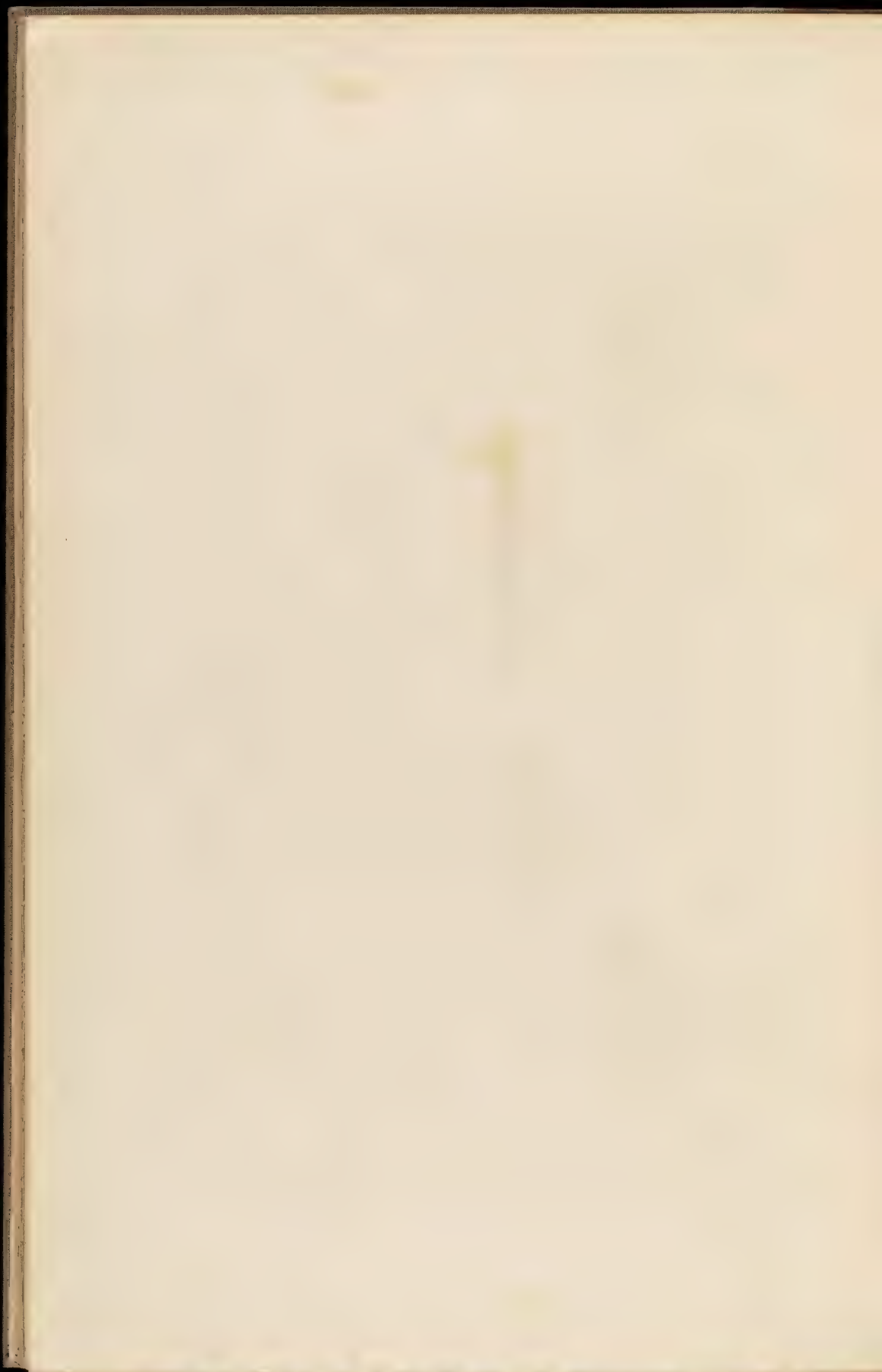


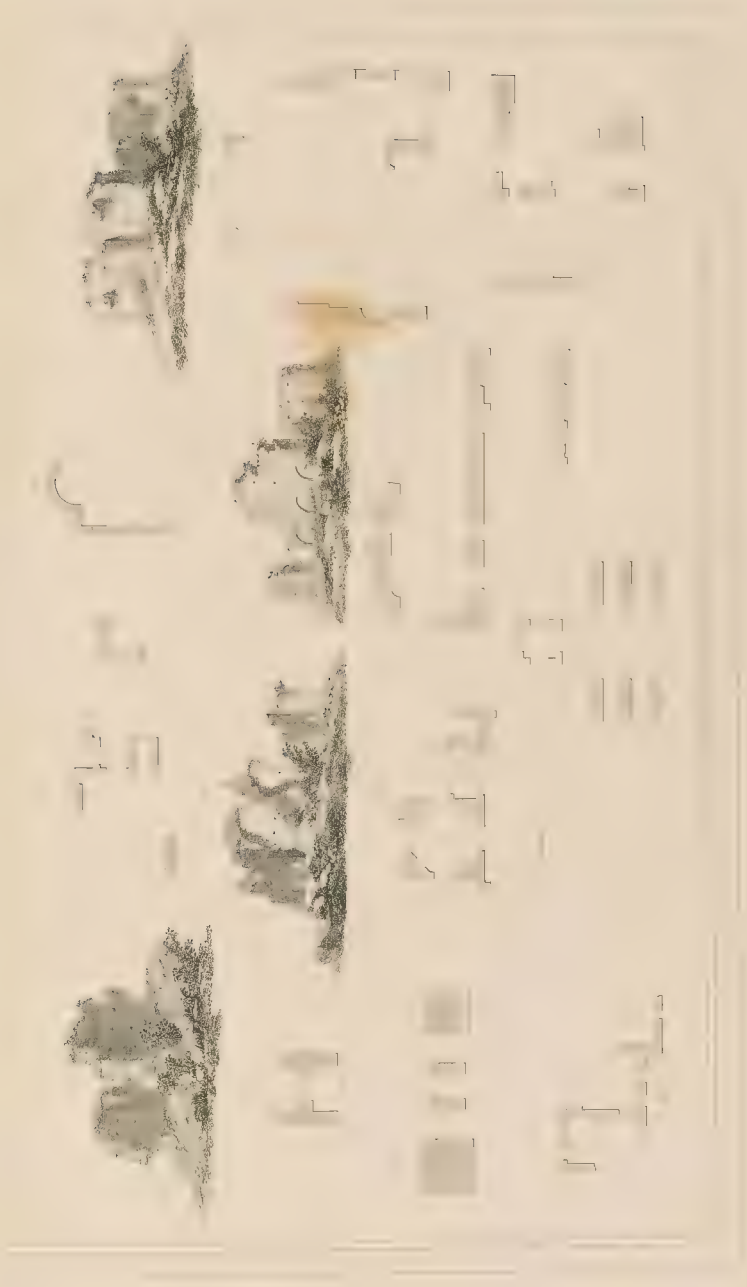






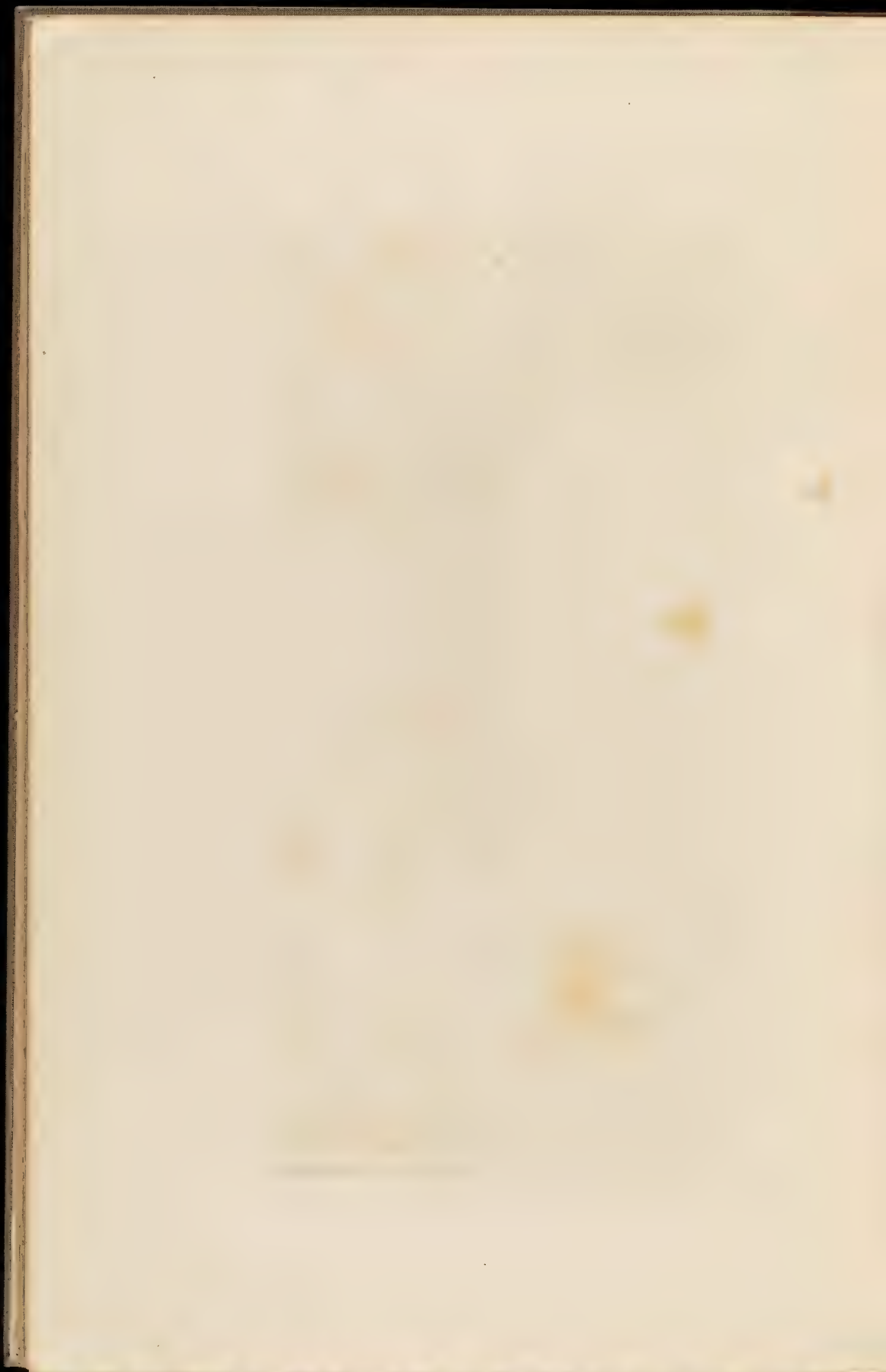






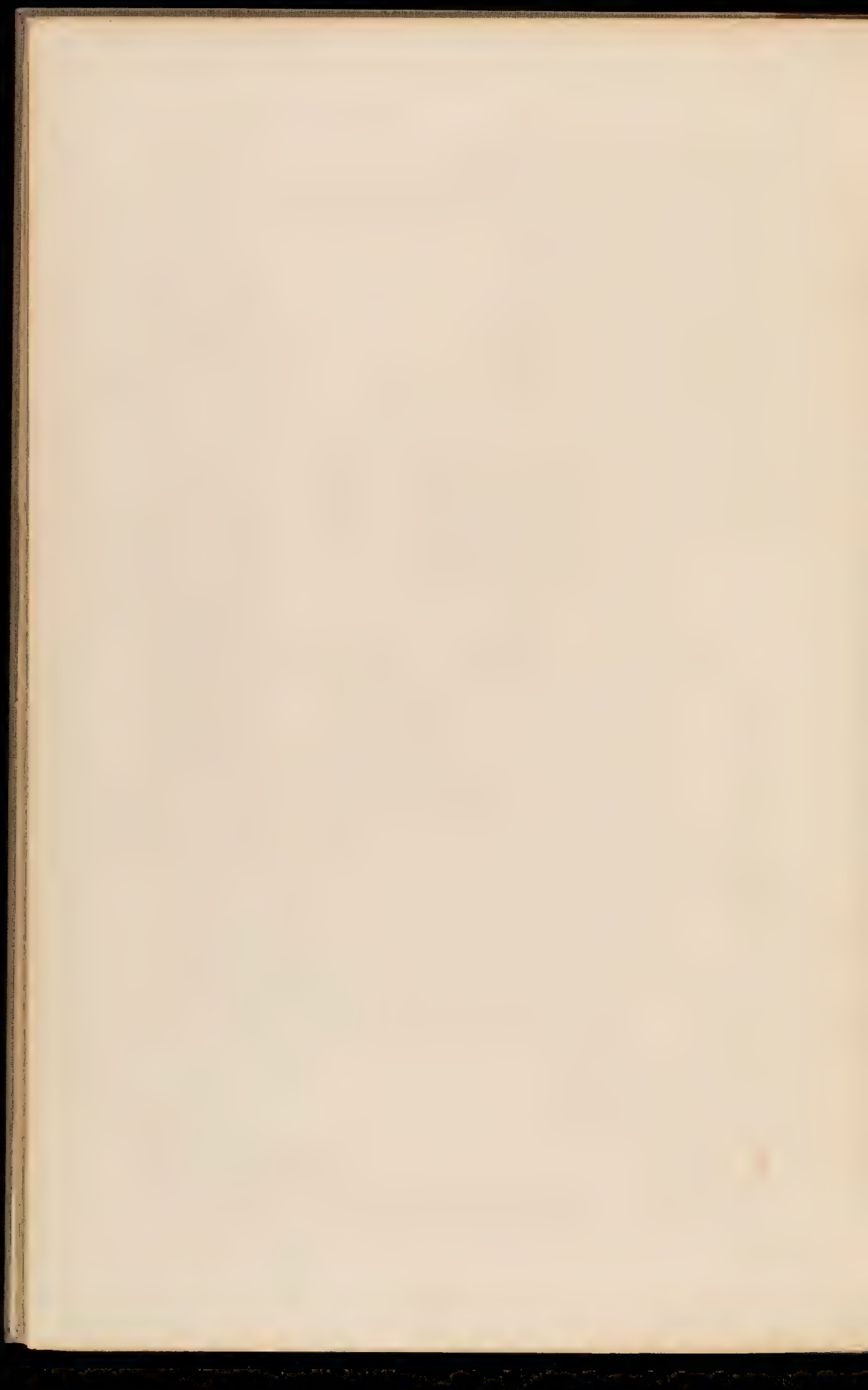


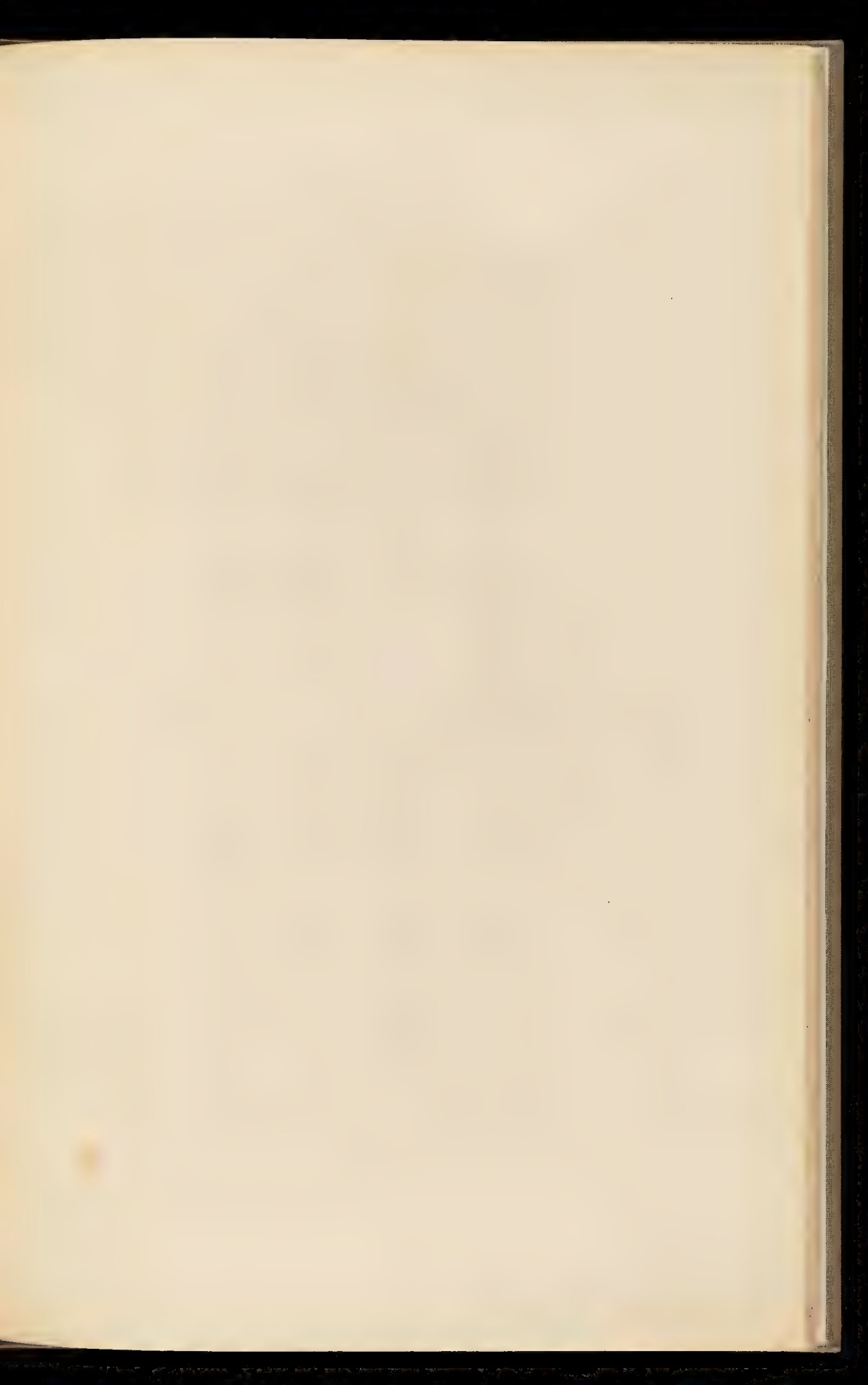


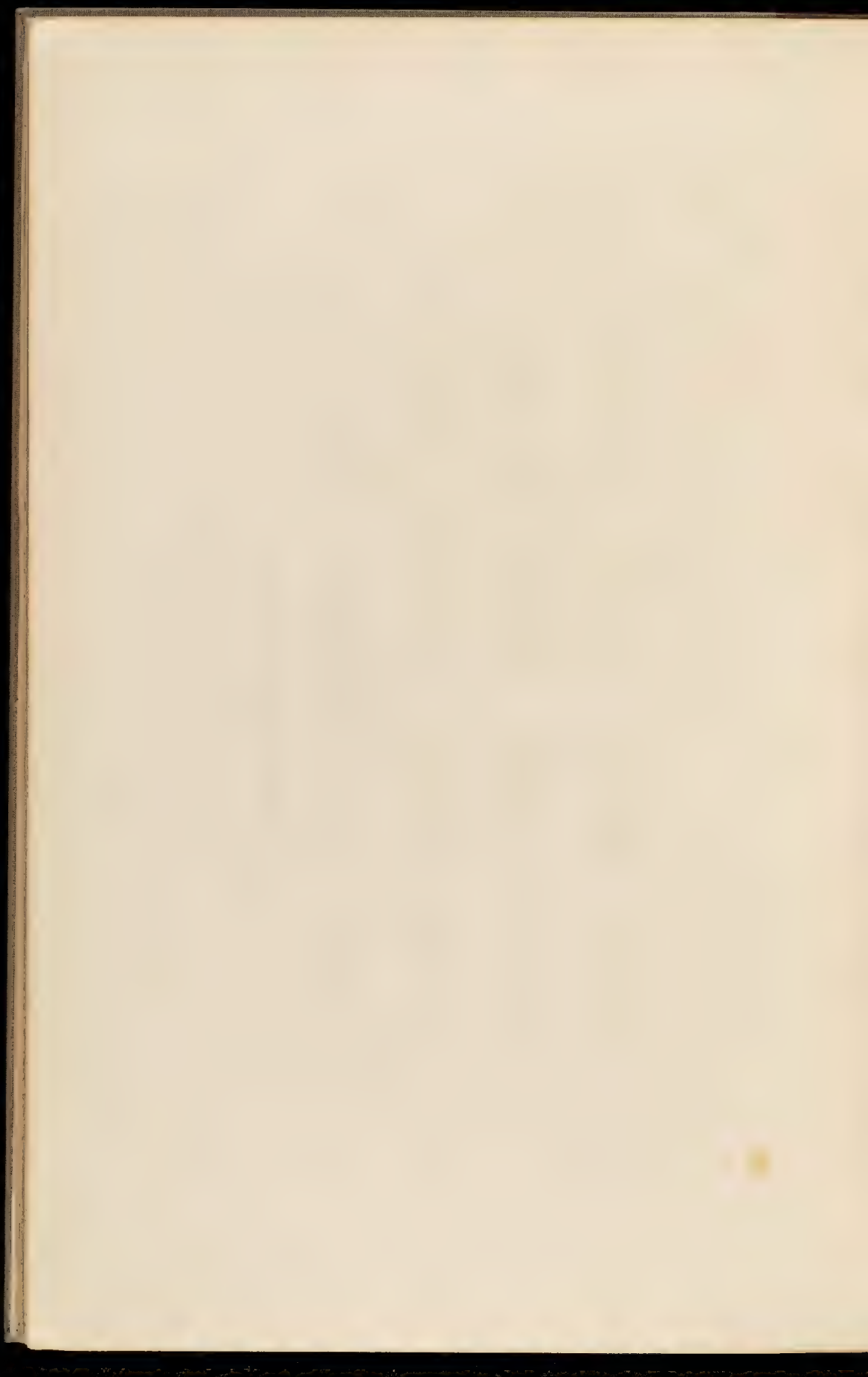


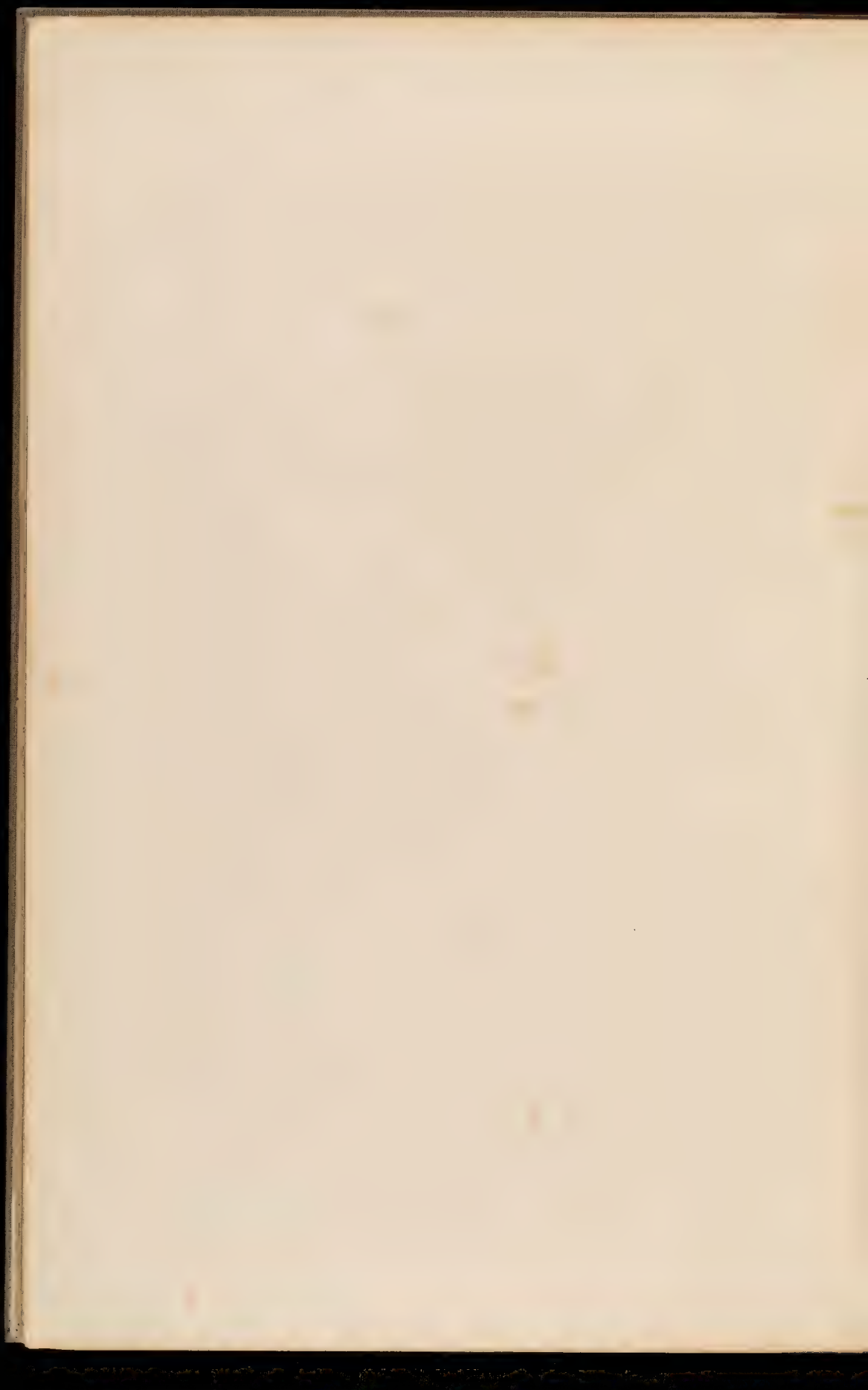


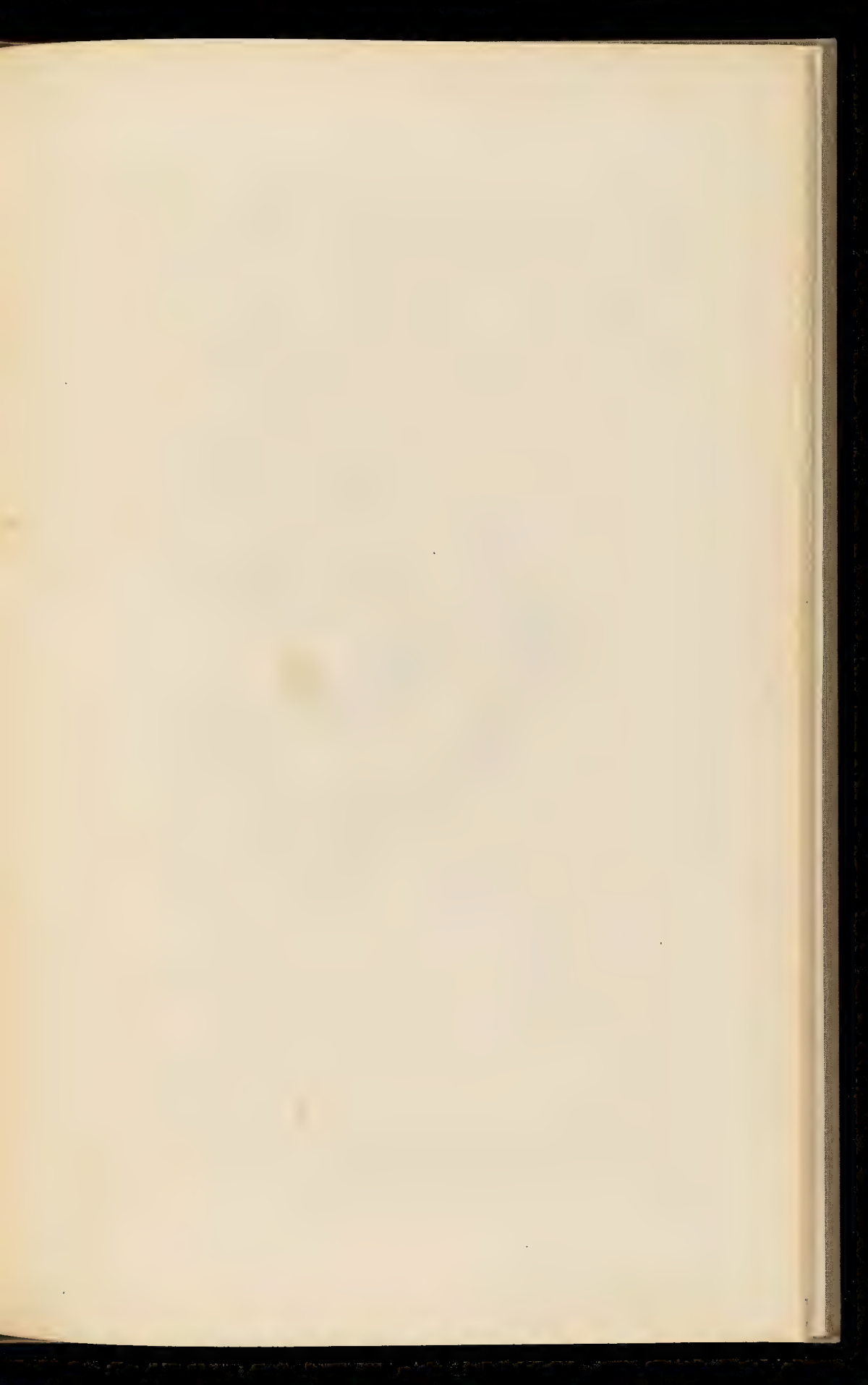
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E L I S



I have been favoured by Colonel Leake with extracts from his Journal, containing the routes from Pyrgo to Olympia, and from Paleopoli to the sources of the Erymanthus near Dhiori. Such materials, from the pen of so distinguished and accurate a geographer, are too valuable to render any apology necessary on my part for their insertion. To him, likewise, I am indebted for the geographical sketch of Elis, inserted in a former part of this work.

FROM PYRGO TO OLYMPIA.

"The road from Pyrgo to Olympia leads for about half a mile along the same track as that to Arkadhiá, and then turns to the left to the hills. It enters the valley of the Alpheius at the end of three and a half miles, and then passes for another mile and a half close at the foot of the northern hills, which are well clothed with pines, as well as the range on the opposite side of the river. The valley is from a mile to half a mile in breadth, and at the end of two miles is narrowed by a projection of the northern hills; opposite to which, on the side of the southern range, is the village of Volanza. It then suddenly expands into a large valley of equal dimensions every way, and surrounded by pine-clad hills. In this valley, at the end of two hours from Pyrgo, we crossed the river of Lestenitza, a large stream running south to join the Alpheius. On the left, on the summit of a hill, is a chiflek of Mustafa Aga of Lalla, called Schréfi: from hence, the plain is four miles across to the village of Vloka, which is a small place situated on the side of a range of hills, which shut up the valley on this side, and leave only space sufficient for the passage of the Alpheius between them and the range which follows the left bank of the river, westward towards the sea, terminating in a point, near which is situated Volanza. This pass of the Alpheius, through which is the passage of the river from the valley of Olympia into that of Schréfi, is extremely beautiful, both from the romantic variety of the rugged ground as well as from the admirable disposition of the pine-woods in copses and clusters, with the noble Alpheius running through the midst of them.

"The direct road to Olympia passes through Vloka, and over the hills, on the top of which are the huts called the village of Druova, from whence it descends by a fountain into the vale of the Cladeus, which stream it crosses at a mill where are some Roman remains, and there falls into the road from Miraka to Lalla. It is four short hours from Pyrgo to Olympia."

FROM PALEOPOLI TO DHIORI.

"February 26, I left Paleopoli (the village in the ruins of Elis) at 3 p.m. on the road to Tripolitza, passing through a narrow vale in the hills of Elis. At 3—38, cross a brook, which comes from the right and joins the Peneius a little above the ruins of Elis. At 4—7, the village of Pazaiti is on the right, beautifully situated on the slope of the pine-covered hills. At 4—22, cross a small stream deep and sluggish, flowing to join the Peneius near the village of Aghios Elias. Immediately afterwards, the village of Lykávitzia is on the height upon our left. At 4—50, cross a small stream shaded with planes, which comes from a narrow woody vale on our right. The scenery of the vale and of the rugged pine-clad hills which border it is equal in beauty to any in the neighbourhood of Olympia. These forests of pines and rugged forms of hills extend all the way to Pyrgo, Agoulenitza, and Lalla. At 5—3, the village of Koulogli is half a mile on our left; on the bank of the Peneius. These are all small villages, with its Pyrgos to each; they belong to the Turks of Gasthouni or Lalla. At 5—15, pass at the foot of a height, on the summit of which are the remains of massy walls built of small stones and mortar. A small plain cultivated with calampokki, lies between this hill and a river coming from the right. At 5—27, we cross this river, probably the Ladon of Elis, (a totally distinct stream from the Arcadian Ladon, which joins the Alpheius a little beyond the mouth of the Erymanthus,) where, on the edge of the bank, is a piece of Roman ruin, like those at Paleopoli, and proceeded to lodge for the night at Hadgidhes, situated on



the right bank of the river opposite to Koulogli. This river joins the Peneius a mile and a half below Hadgidhes at the foot of a point, upon which stands the hamlet of Agrapidho Khorio.—February 27, leave Hadgidhes at 8—20, and soon after enter the vale of a stream shaded with planes, which joins the river of Hadgidhes a little above that village. Follow up this valley, and at 8—50, pass under the village of Simopulo, which is on our left. On the right of the road at the same place is a single column of coarse marble, surrounded with excavations, from whence the Turks of Lalla have been taking stones for building as they have done at Olympia. Follow up the valley, and enter a forest of birches, oaks, wild pears, planes. At 9—40, arrive at the summit of the ascent—magnificent view of Olonos, Vodhia, and the mountains of Roumeli: this lofty ridge descends to the banks of the Alpheius; to our left it is connected with the great steeps of Mount Olonos: before us are the wooded heights towards Lalla, which are intersected by several streams uniting to form the Ladon or river of Hadgidhes. At eleven o'clock, still proceeding through the forest, we have Kakotari on the left, at the foot of the great gorge of Mount Olonos, from which issues the Peneius. Continuing to ascend, and crossing several rivulets running to join the Ladon, I halt at one of the last of the tributary streams of the Ladon, at a place which is not more than two miles in direct distance from the left bank of the Erymanthus, but at a great height above it. From this spot I continue ascending, turning more to the north, and in an hour arrive at Dhiori, a large town in a lofty situation upon Mount Olonos, near the sources of one of the tributary streams of the Erymanthus.**

* Colonel Leake's Journal.

THE END.

RUINS OF ELIS.

My readers will be able to form a much more correct idea of the state of the ruins of Elis from an inspection of the plans, than they can from any description. Though, upon the whole, considerable remains may be traced, they are in general in too ruinous a state to be objects of much interest. I shall therefore content myself with following the course that I have done with respect to those of Olympia, and lay before my readers Mr. Allason's observations upon them.

MR. ALLASON'S REPORT.

RUINS OF ELIS.

"No. 1. This ruin is situate north-west of the Acropolis, and, from what remains of it, appears to have formed the entrance of an extensive building; this, as well as all the other ruins in the Plain of Elis, is constructed with brick of the same description as that which was used at Olympia: the walls have small square perforations, probably for ventilation.

"No. 2 is a pedestal 18 feet square, and it probably supported an equestrian statue or a colossal group of figures. It is now only six feet above the soil.

"No. 3 appears to have formed the entrance to another building.

"No. 4, a pedestal 14 feet 10 inches square.

"Nos. 5 and 6 are foundations due west of the Acropolis, and are evidently the remains of dwellings. The chambers are of moderate extent, having doors of communication; but little of the walls now remain above ground.

"No. 7. This ruin is the most striking and perfect of all, those in the Plain of Elis; it principally consists of an octagonal chamber, 21 feet 9 inches in diameter, having four large openings or door-ways; the remaining four sides are ornamented with circular niches. This part of the building has been domed, and appears to have been of considerable extent.

"Nos. 8 and 9 are the ruins of habitations; little more now remains than their foundations.

"No. 10. This ruin presents a very picturesque outline; it is situate in the middle of the plain, and has several masses, some of them 20 feet high.

"No. 11. This ruin appears to have been of considerable extent; several of its parts are perfect, from which it seems to have been finished with great care.

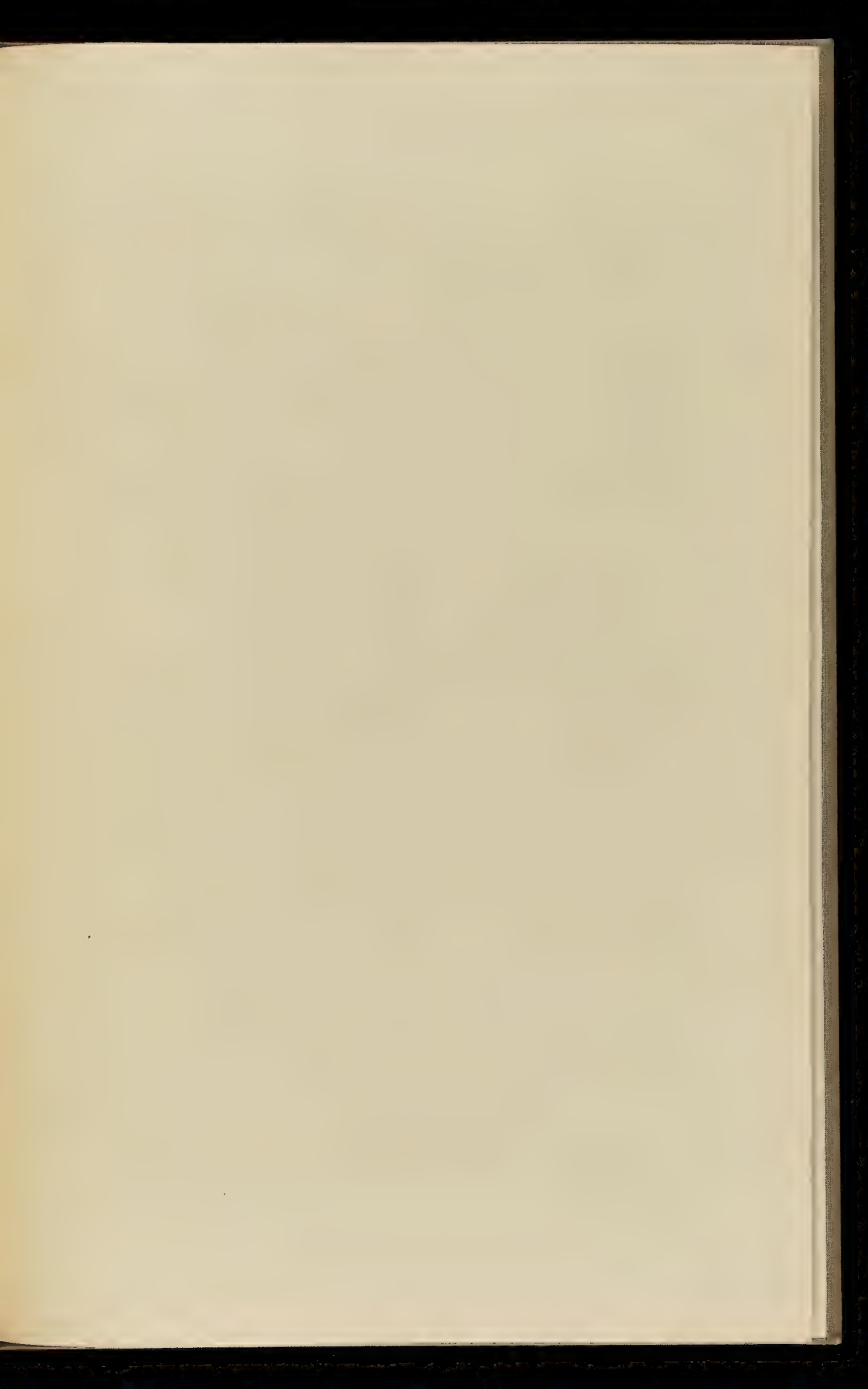
"Nos. 12, 13, 14. Of these little can be traced but the foundations."

SITE OF ELIS.

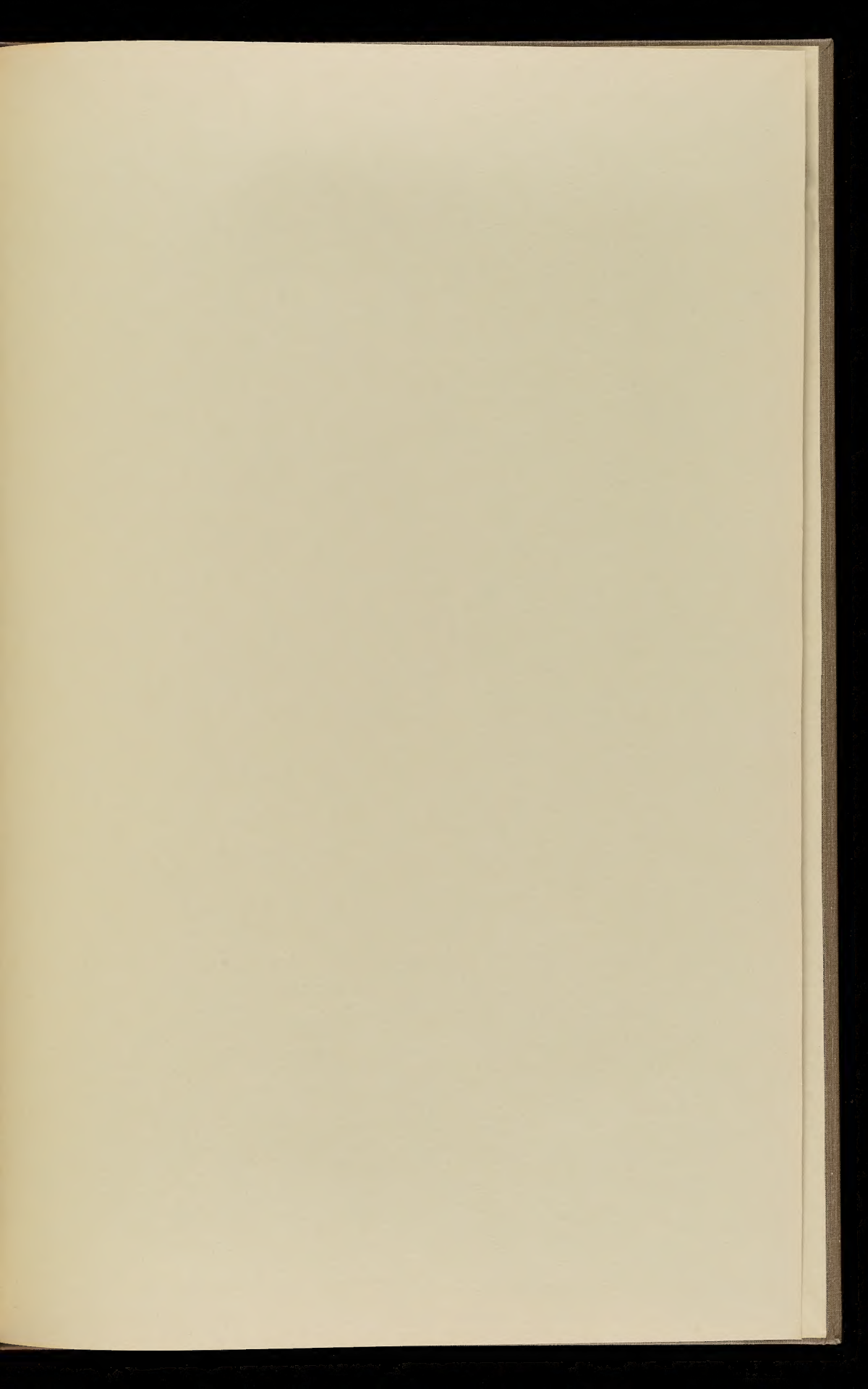
This view, which is taken from the village of Palaipoli, contains the principal ruins of Elis; and if it does not give so minute a delineation of the plain in which they stand as does the Plan of Elis, it represents it in a more agreeable manner, and conveys a better idea of the general appearance of the place. To the right, above the village, rises the hill on which stood the Acropolis; and below, the Peneus may be seen winding through the plain: beyond appears a line of hills; and still further, the coast, the sea, and the island of Cephalonia. Immediately in front we have the principal ruins, the village of Calivia rising amidst the trees; a low range of hills, which have been spoken of as the termination of the plain to the west; beyond a higher range, the sea, and the island of Zante. To the left, are the hills described as the southern boundary; but, between which and the western range, the plain connects itself with the greater Plain of Elis.

THE UNPUBLISHED COINS OF ELIS,

FROM THE COLLECTION OF THE BRITISH MUSEUM, AND THE LATE MR. PAYNE KNIGHT.







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